



JANUARY 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Georgia beekeepers, and I hope your bees have a good year as well.

Since I am very interested in building our membership, I requested that our members fill out a survey about the benefits of joining GBA. I've heard from about 1/4 of you. If you didn't respond to the survey and would like your voice to be heard, you can still [click here](#) and share your opinions.

According to the survey, hearing national speakers who are not typically at local club meetings is the most important benefit that GBA gives our members. For example, Marla Spivak will be presenting three different topics at our spring meeting. If you haven't registered yet, [click here](#). The second most popular feature of the GBA are the GBA two annual meetings for our members each year. Almost equally important is the opportunity to hear speakers from our own state not heard at local meetings. A chart follows this message to show where all items were ranked.

Many good suggestions came from our members. One member wanted follow-up to the grant writing workshop presented at Lake Blackshear. Another wanted access to the GBA Speakers Bureau: [click here to see the list of speakers](#). Someone suggested an online membership directory. A member thought GBA should work on media relations and develop press releases to highlight the prison program or junior beekeeping. One member suggested that we produce webinars about beekeeping skills to share with clubs across the state. And someone suggested that we develop a members-only online library of powerpoint presentations.

One member pointed out that we should contact the members we lose. We have seventy members whose dues lapsed in the last year. I would like to telephone each of those people to find out how we can bring them back to GBA, and to learn what they need from the organization that they may not be getting. If you have an interest in working with me on this retention committee, [let me know](#).

The board voted by email to extend a free membership in GBA to each of the presidents of the forty GBA-connected clubs in our state. We want our presidents to feel valued. Gina Gallucci, your vice-president, and I met this week with Holly Bayendor, who is president of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, to explore with her how GBA might be of help to MABA. We are hoping that all the officers and directors on the board will have the opportunity to meet with many of the club presidents during the upcoming year. Please share contact information about your club with [Jane Quattlebaum](#), our GBA secretary, so that she can develop an up-to-date contact list of the local clubs and officers. We can't take you to lunch if we don't know how to get in touch with you!

Thanks for all the input and suggestions. Continue to [let us know how GBA can be of help](#) to you and have a great 2017 bee year!

Linda Tillman

Hearing national speakers not heard at local clubs	7.28
Attending the two annual conferences	6.87
Hearing GA speakers not heard at local clubs	6.85
Knowing GBA represents me in state legislature	6.06
Meeting/being with other beekeepers	6.02
Receiving the newsletter	5.43
Buying from vendors at annual meetings	5.05
GBA represents me at national meetings	4.85
Sharing ideas, etc. with other clubs	4.54
Ability to enter GBA honey show	4.05

Benefits of GBA survey results to date
Items were scored from 1-10 with 10 being the highest total. The first three on this list had the highest totals. The remaining items had less weight for the members overall.

INTERESTING TIMES IN THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS

By Bob Grant

"May you live in interesting times" is an English expression from a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. Well, I can't think of anything more appropriate for our Northeastern Georgia Mountain beekeepers during November.

With five apiaries in Rabun county, I had to run down to a major box store in Clayton on a sunny Sunday morning. On the way, I noticed a strange, gray fog forming and a bright orange sun. Later, while outdoors prepping for some bee work, I smelled a faint odor of smoke - not uncommon in our area, as many residents burn wood to heat their homes. Later a friend called, who lives on Screamer Mountain, to say he couldn't see anything for the smoke.

The truth of the situation began to emerge as I learned there was a forest fire not far away in North Carolina. At that point, there was no alarm going off in my head as to pending danger.

As the next two weeks unfolded, additional fires developed to the northwest and northeast of us with the worst being only 10 miles away. There were days when we couldn't spend more than an hour outside, if that. The daytime temperatures were in the high 40s to low 60s during the day with some overnight freezing temperatures.

My main concern for my colonies was the increased smoke which could cause my bees to abscond in search of a safer home. Not sure of what to do, I elected to increase the rate of feeding at the community feeders and watch the reaction of the bees and the intake rate of the syrup.

I noticed that the intake of syrup rose substantially and the bees were more active in their collection efforts during heavy smoke. While the hives had a significant level of stored honey from the fall flow, including regular feeding since the beginning of September, the ladies continued to forage for the sugar syrup during the crisis. We went from feeding every two days to daily feeding to support the bees' apparent drive to build emergency stores.

The bottom line is that the heavy feeding appeared to keep the bees in place and no hive absconded. All it took was a lot of sugar, Honey Bee Healthy, and rubber off my truck's tires. Also, Mother Nature played an important role in the effort, as she eventually turned the winds northwards moving the fires and smoke away from us. Now we can have a peaceful and smoke free Christmas.

PS: A big thank you to the over 1000 firefighters from all over the country, who came and worked 12 hour days to contain the fires!



GA FARM BUREAU CONVENTION REPORT

Keith and RoseAnne Fielder manned the GBA booth at the Georgia Farm Bureau meeting on December 4-5th. Materials promoting the the use of cooking with honey were handed out as well as the always popular honey straws. They answered questions concerning bees as well. A drawing was held for five gift bags filled with bee themed items. Pictured is Davyla, one of the happy winners!

OOPS...

Our November issue had an error in the GBA honey show report.

Stephen Jones from Hartwell recieved a *Very Highly Commendable* for his dark extracted honey. Congrats, Stephen!

Club News

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met on December 13, 2016, at Camp John Hope for their annual potluck dinner and silent auction. The club raised nearly \$600 from more than 40 donated items, including a nuc, a Bee Culture magazine subscription, GBA memberships and \$250 towards 2017's Young Harris.

Broadus Williams was named Beekeeper of the Year, and Carolyn Childs was awarded the President's Award for a decade of outstanding service to the club.



**Broadus Williams -
Beekeeper of the Year**



**Carolyn Childs -
President's Award**



**Over 45 items donated
for the silent auction.**



**Bidding was brisk at the silent
auction.**

The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers, Altamaha Beekeepers, and the Dublin Beekeepers had a joint Christmas party with a record turnout. A tableful of raffle items meant that everyone went home with something. On a separate table was a nuc box and a package donated by Henry Price and a nuc with bees, another package of bees and a queen donated by Bobby Colson.

Gary Weaver was the Beekeeper of the Year for Ogeechee Area Beekeepers.

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club's first 2017 meeting will be January 19th at the University of N GA Campus in Cumming at 6:30pm. All other monthly meetings will be the 4th Thursday of each month.

2017 will again offer monthly newsletters, a two day bee school (one classroom and one in the field), the certified beekeeper exam, a queen rearing class, disease and disorder day, Welsh honey show, year-round mentoring, and a holiday dinner. Nuc orders are being received now for March delivery. Stay informed with the ForsythBeekeepersClub.org website and Facebook page.

Walton County Beekeepers Association has scheduled a Short Course for Beekeepers to be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 8:15am to 4:00pm.

The course will be held at Walton EMC, 842 Highway 78 NW, Monroe, GA 30655.

The speaker will be Dr Maxcy P. Nolan IV, PhD. The cost is \$65 pre-registration, \$75 at the door. For more information check their Facebook page or email waltonbees@yahoo.com.

Lake Country Beekeepers Association finish 2016 strong

While our bees are prepared and clustered for the coming winter, members of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association have been active in November and December. At the November meeting, Dr. Jamie Ellis entertained and educated us on the *The Humorous Honey Bee - Design and Function*. He explained and shared photos of the unique mouthparts, the external and internal organs of bee anatomy, and a video capturing a queen flying through a drone congregation area. Dr. Ellis's enthusiasm and antics lived up to the humorous part of this presentation.

In early December, our club traveled together to Blue Ridge Honey Company where Bob & Suzette Binnie offered a personal tour of their honey processing facility. We learned how planning, layout, management and key employees plan critical roles in operating a large scale apiary and honey business. We capped off our club field trip with lunch at The Dillard House. If you are ever near Clayton, GA, and headed south on Highway 441, make time to visit the Binnies and check out at www.blueridgehoneycompany.com.

And finally, the club members enjoyed our annual Christmas Party at Straw's BBQ in Sparta, GA. Great food and door prizes were enjoyed by a our members and their families.

We look forward to 2017 with Dr. Paul Arnold from Young Harris College coming on Monday, January 16th and our 5th Annual Short Course on Saturday, January 28th. For more information, find Lake Country Beekeepers Association on Facebook.



A complete hive from Morgan Apiaries was the grand door prize at LCBA Christmas Party



Lake Country Beekeepers visit Blue Ridge Honey Company

LCBA Upcoming Events:

Monday, January 16th 6:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Paul Arnold, Professor of biology at Young Harris College
Topic: Honeybee Botany (what beekeepers should know about the plants their bees visit)

Hancock County Extension Building,
 12534 August Highway in Sparta, GA

Saturday, January 28th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

5th Annual Lake Country Beekeepers Association Short Course

Oconee Fall Line Technical College
 10571 Highway 15 North in Sparta, GA

\$40 pre-registration call 478.456.1049 for more information

Tri-State Beekeepers will present a beekeeping seminar on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The seminar will run from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and takes place at the Agriculture Building located at 114 Paces Drive, Trenton, Georgia 30752. This site has easy access from Hwy 59.

This is an introduction to beekeeping which teaches you how to get started. It includes the basics of honey bee biology, the equipment you can use and the tools needed. Starting with nucs (nucleus hives) and how to install them as well as products of the hive will be covered. Problems encountered during the first year in the management of hives will be discussed to help make you more successful. This is a class taught by beekeepers for beekeepers and will help answer your questions on how to get started or improve your management techniques to make

you a more successful beekeeper and help your bees survive.

Price for admission is \$45 per person and \$65 for couples. Lunch is included. Pre registration payment in full is required by January 16, 2017. Call Derick Forester at 423-413-5370 to pre-register. No registrations will be taken during day of seminar. Checks should be mailed to Derick Forester, 114 Paces Drive, Trenton, GA 30752.

West Georgia Beekeepers Association held their 2nd Honey Show on October 24, 2016.

Winners:

Gadgets - 1st place, Damon Sticher; 3rd place, Charles Beavers

Crafts - 1st place Connie Christenson, 2nd place Debbie Tamplin, 5th place, Gloria Hamby, 6th place, Jan Sprayberry

Photo - 2nd place Lynda Shaw

Light Honey - 3rd place Marilyn Parker

Amber Honey - 1st place Marilyn Parker

Dark Honey - 4th place Earl Cosgrove, 6th place Sheldon Tyndall

Black Jar - Lynda Shaw

Best in Show - Marilyn Parker for her Amber Honey

Mary Cahill-Roberts, the Welsh Honey Judge stated that the black jar was really hard to pick with all the good entries.

At the November meeting officers were elected. Elected were: Marilyn Parker, President; Lynda Shaw, Vice President; Sarah Ingman, Treasurer; Betty Cosgrove, Secretary; John McDaniel and Ravenel Ingman as Board Members.

We meet at the American Legion, Douglasville, Ga. on the Fourth Monday of each month.

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	Dan Scales, Winter feeding	Mon, Jan 9, 2017, 7pm	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Harold Lanier, Hardware/equipment	Thurs, Jan 19, 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Dan Davis - Mead demonstration	Tues, Jan 21, 7pm	Camp John Hope	Fort Valley, GA
MABA	Short course on beekeeping	Sat, Jan 21, 8-5pm	The Atlanta History Center, McElreath Hall 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW	Atlanta, GA
MABA	Cindy Ball, Lotion bars	Wed, Jan 11, 7-9pm	Mershon Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, on Piedmont Ave	Atlanta, GA



Dear Aunt Bee,

What is the best food source to feed your bees in the winter? What is the best recipe?

—Marylynn

Dear Marylynn,

Of course, ideally you will leave enough honey on the bee hives that they do not need feeding. Honey is the very best food for bees because they make honey to meet their winter needs in the hive. Sugar syrup has a different pH than honey and changes the microbiology of the hive.

However, if you have a hive that is light, an excellent way to feed them is to use a time-honored recipe for bee tea. The first reference I can find for this is in an article by Ross Conrad in Bee Culture in August 2010. He supported feeding your bees a bee tea recipe developed by Rudolf Steiner in 1923. The tea includes chamomile which probably appeals to the bees because it adds a floral taste (and for all we know, it may relax them just like it does humans). The thyme in the bee tea is an ingredient in one of the leading “natural” treatments for the varroa mite.

Like all sugar syrups, this tea can crystallize so I have made a few adjustments to prevent crystallization.

Here is a recipe for bee tea that doesn't crystallize:

2 cups chamomile tea, steeped for 20 minutes

8 cups water

20 cups sugar

leaves from three or four sprigs of thyme

several shakes of coarse sea salt

about 1/2 tsp of lemon juice

If I have to feed a hive, I usually use the rapid feeder which sits on top of the inner cover and looks like an angel food cake pan with a plastic top. I have rarely seen a dead bee in a rapid feeder.

Hope your bees make it through the winter!

—Aunt Bee

Thanks to Linda Tillman for answering our Aunt Bee question this month.

MGSU HONEY SALE

Middle Georgia State University beekeepers and biology students held their honey sale on Thursday, November 17, on the Cochran campus. They sold more than one hundred pounds of honey harvested by faculty, staff, student volunteers and students taking research classes on honey bees. Many candles, lip balms and lotions that were made by students using bees wax were also sold. The money raised by this annual sale will be used to support the Middle Georgia State University beekeeping program, and will be used to send students to meetings such as the GBA meetings. The program is run by three MGA faculty- Gloria Huddleston (Georgia Certified Beekeeper), Clint Ready (Georgia Journeymen Beekeeper), and Tina Mahaffee - all members of the Heart Of Georgia Beekeepers.



BEEKEEPERS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Bear Kelley

When I started keeping bees, I thought it would be the perfect past time to check on my hives every once in awhile, and enjoy the quiet solitude of the hobby. But that was 11 years ago, and never did I realize how many people spent so many hours/days doing community service as beekeepers. I joined a club and after a while I learned about the American Bee Federation, Georgia Beekeepers Association and other beekeeping organizations. When you think about how many people it takes to manage your local clubs and others up the line, there are literally thousands of beekeepers in community service. Not counting all the local clubs who put on beginning beekeeping classes and programs for the public every year, as well as displays at various fairs, community events, and parks throughout the land. I realize that Beeks are passionate about their little sweethearts, but to spend so much more time outside of the hive is at the very least commendable. If you think about all the other kinds of organizations that exist around America, the community service numbers are incredible.

Our wonderful country was built and sustained by people willing to participate in community service. I'm not talking about politicians who are paid for what they do; I'm talking about folks like Broadus Williams, Julia Mahood, Jane Quattlebaum, Butch Sheldon, Brutz English and so many others who have stepped up to help keep something bigger than they are, going. Since serving my time in the Georgia Beekeepers Association, I have met so many great folks who have been willing to give up part of their day and serve. They realize the importance of what we are doing as an association and do see it as something bigger than their little bubble of life.

So, to those who have served and are serving, I say thank you! Next month, many clubs will be selecting new officers. If you haven't served, here is your chance to step outside your hive and do something for the entire colony.



“Perfection in beekeeping is not found in a multiplicity of appliances, but in simplicity and the elimination of everything not absolutely essential”

–Brother Adam

FROM THE GBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Gail Dean
Tim Doherty
Brutz English
Gina Gallucci
Jim Moya

The GBA Legislative Committee is looking into two ideas for our membership. We would like your comments and suggestions.

Georgia has a specialty license plate program that allows organizations to promote areas of interest. We are researching a “Support the Honey Bee” license plate, including the process, cost, and extent of interest by our membership and others. As we get closer to a proposal, we will provide more information and possibly a survey to the membership.

Second, we are considering creation of a program

to introduce interested veterans to beekeeping. Veterans often have difficulty reintegrating to a non-combat environment and many suffer from anxiety, depression, and post traumatic stress disorder. We think the nurturing and intellectual aspects of beekeeping and social interaction in learning from other beekeepers can mitigate those difficulties. The general idea is to provide veterans with training, essential equipment, a hive and bees if they demonstrate interest in belonging to a local beekeeper association. We hope those veterans will in turn mentor other veterans facing similar challenges.

Please let us know your thoughts about these ideas and any other interests you believe we should consider as we represent you. Your input is very important to us.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR JANUARY HIVES *by Jennifer Berry*

The past several months have been tough, not only in the political arena, but in the environmental one as well. Continuous above average temperatures along with little to no rainfall in the Southeast have served to fuel intense wildfires throughout Georgia. It was as if the faucet got turned off and the oven turned on. Both of these conditions (hot and dry) in fall can cause a whole host of issues for our bees as well; one such issue is colonies continuing to rear brood when normally they are shutting down. More brood means more mouths to feed and more mouths to feed means more food consumed (more brood rearing also provides more food for varroa, yet another issue). Plus, warmer temperatures keep the colonies more active, hence consuming more food. And since goldenrod, the last drop of sustenance available in the year, all but dried up and blew away, food stores may be becoming scarce. Therefore, our bees may be in dire need of our assistance so let's get out into the apiary and check the colonies.

Lifting the entire colony from the rear is a quick method for determining quantities of honey stores, but it is not always accurate. Some colonies may have more weight in brood or woodenware than in honey, thereby giving a false reading. To guarantee your bees have enough honey, quickly tilt each individual super from the back to feel the weight and locate the cluster. Also, inspect the frames by looking down between the top bars to see if there is enough honey and where it is located. Now, we've been told for years to not open hives unless the temperatures are well into the 50s. This is good advice, however, the weather may not always cooperate especially when we need to know what is going on inside our colonies now. Remember, the bees are not warming the entire hive but instead only the cluster. Here are a few tips.

Never open colonies when temperatures are below 40, or on windy/rainy days. The best conditions are bright, sunny, windless days.

Check the forecast and avoid opening colonies days prior to major weather events moving in since the propolis seal the bees so carefully placed between each super will be broken.

Don't take off the supers and put them on the ground. You are only tilting them back in order to feel the weight and inspect.

Never remove frames in or next to the cluster.

Don't dally, work quickly.

Also, make sure honey stores are within reach of the cluster. When winter temperatures start fluctuating from the mid 50s to the low 20s, bees often get sep-

arated from the honey. All the honey in the world is worthless if the bees are too chilled to reach it. Rule of thumb: for every frame of bees and brood you need an equal sized frame and a half of capped honey.

If the colony is light on stores, you must feed, or they will starve. November through January will provide nothing in the form of sustenance. Once February rolls around (in Georgia) there may be a few drops of nectar here and there, but what's mostly available is pollen from red maple trees. The heavy nectar flow won't begin until mid-March to April—depending on location (latitude). Then, there's always the question of what ratio (cane sugar to water, by weight) to feed: 2 to 1, or 1 to 1? We've never been as meticulous as the UGA Bee Lab (or home) as to weigh components; we just have a feel for it. Granulated sugar is added to about the $\frac{3}{4}$ -full point in a five-gallon bucket and then hot water stirred in until full. I imagine that our concoction is somewhere in between.

Also, what's the best way to feed? After trying all the feeding contraptions out there, we've settled on two-holed (with 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " apertures), migratory covers with inverted half-gallon mason jars to feed our bees.

Top, entrance, and division board feeders will not deliver the needed syrup if temperatures are cold. The food delivery method needs to be right on top of the cluster; it cannot be to the side, at the entrance or in a top feeder where the bees have to travel up and around to access the syrup. If "the weather outside is frightful," the bees will not be able to traverse the cold surfaces and move any distance at all; therefore, they will starve. Bees in cluster can starve with pounds of honey just inches away. This usually occurs when extremely cold weather sets in for a few days. The bees eat all surrounding honey and can't move to access the rest. Normally, larger clusters are not as susceptible to this, but smaller clusters can lose the battle quickly if they get separated from the honey source. That's why, during warmer days (50's and above), it's a good idea to move those distant honey frames in closer and over the cluster.

Remember, starvation is the #2 reason bees die; let's not allow this on our watch. Be good to you and your bees.



MARY'S MUSINGS

by Mary Cahill-Roberts, Master Beekeeper and GBA Past President

Winter Woes ...that are worrisome.

The list includes pests, disease, starvation and *the need for preparation*. Winter problems have variable factors such as harshness of winter weather, food stores, pest or disease level in hives going into winter, and skill of the beekeeper. In my experience, the most important factors that impact the hive are varroa and starvation. Both of these problems are best managed before winter, with anticipation and preparation.

The first question you should ask is whether you did enough to control varroa in the summer. That ship has sailed and you cannot change what you did or did not do. The varroa take a toll on our bees regardless of season; however, the summer and fall bees are the ones that are produced the long-lived winter bee. Over the winter the honeybee can survive up to six months. They need to be healthy as they feed and care for the spring bee.

I use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to control my hives' varroa. I know that my hives that have higher varroa count will be more likely to have problems. I generally carry a higher than recommended varroa load. I try to manage my hives by keeping them strong and full of bees. I don't want problems with wax moths or hive beetle. In spring I supplement my hives with nutrients so they can become stronger. As part of my IPM, I also use supplements in my sugar water.

The second culprit is starvation. This should never happen. It is the duty and responsibility of the beekeeper to make sure that the hives have enough honey for the winter to survive. Here in North Georgia, we do not have a long winter. The times when the hives need honey, it should be there. No excuses! It is reckless for a beekeeper to steal all the honey in the summer. It is irresponsible not to supplement them during the dearth. This year, where I live, we had a very dry spring, summer, and fall. There was little to no nectar available for forage. I made sure to supplement the bees well, and I took very little honey (5 gallons from 10 hives) for my harvest. In other parts of the state there were people pulling gallons off of one hive because they had rain and the nectar for the bees to collect. Careful management during the bee calendar, by monitoring weather and bee activity, is an important job of the beekeeper. This is a skill one learns over time that you cannot read in a book.

BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood

Aww, we're having goldenrod honey for dinner AGAIN?



Listen here young lady, there are starving bees in south Georgia who would give their right antenna for that goldenrod honey! You'll eat it and you'll like it!

mahood



SPRING

MEETING

2017

FEBRUARY 17 & 18

UGA GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Featuring the

*SPRING
ARTISAN*

SHOW

AND THE

WEBSITE AD

AUCTION

The GBA spring meeting is upon us!

The meeting committee has been working planning the best meeting possible. Your feedback has been invaluable in our efforts to improve upon previous meetings. For example, the fall meeting's lunch offerings fell short of expectations. Our favorite comment was, "This lunch seemed like it was planned for a woman on a diet!", so know that at the spring meeting in 2017 your registration fee will cover a hearty lunch from a new vendor.

Due to policy changes at CGTC in Milledgeville, we have moved the location of our spring meeting to the University of Georgia's Griffin campus. Centrally located, it's a wonderful facility with state of the art audio-visual equipment. Additionally, the Spalding County Chamber of Commerce is welcoming us with all kind of perks. They will provide shuttle busses from the hotels to the campus as well as give our group special discounts at local retailers.

We're excited to add a special, optional event to the traditional schedule of the spring meeting. In previous years the spring meeting held a board meeting on Friday night, with an informal reception at the host hotel after the board meeting, then the conference all day Saturday. This year the board meeting will occur on Friday at 5:30 pm and be followed by a special dinner at 7:00 pm. Our keynote speaker Marla Spivak, PhD will present a lecture while we enjoy the meal, catered by Margo's Mediterranean Restaurant. The gourmet menu will include grilled salmon with pesto, chicken lasagna with alfredo sauce, beef lasagna with red sauce, and vegetarian pasta. Bread, salad, desert and beverages will round out the meal, and a cash bar will be available all evening with beer and wine. GBA is funding half of the cost of the meal, asking members to pay \$10 when registering for the Friday night event.

Hotels in Griffin offer very reasonable rates, and are all located in the same area. We have rooms set aside at the Holiday Inn Express and at the Comfort Inn.

Once a year we auction off valuable advertising spots on the GBA website. The 2017 auction will be held during the spring meeting at 4:30 pm on Saturday, February 18. You must be present to bid. Boost your sales by purchasing one of these coveted ads!

Registration for members is \$45, and includes lunch with gluten-free and vegetarian options available. After February 10, the registration fee goes up to \$65. [Click here to register.](#)

The final pages of this newsletter include the entire program, with course descriptions, schedule, and bios of our phenomenal speakers.



By Brutz English

A big part of any GBA conference is the honey contest. This year's spring conference will host our 1st Annual Artisan's Show. As the name implies, the Artisan's Show is about skill, creativity, and craftsmanship. The Artisan's Show is a showcase for the many creations our members produce from the bounty of their hives beyond honey and beeswax. The Artisan's Show will feature a vast array of honey-

bee-related classes such as baked goods, beverages, arts, crafts, and photography. The competition is keen, and to the victors go the glory (and some nice prize money too)!

Over the past few years the GBA honey contests have been growing and evolving in exciting ways. New classes have been added to each show; officiating and judging has become more organized and accountable; and recognition and prizes have substantially increased. In 2015 we started dividing classes out between the fall and spring shows. We put all of the honey and beeswax, as well as arts, crafts, and photography classes in the fall show, and we put beer, mead, honey cakes, and all the "food" classes in the spring show. The fall show was designated the "State Honey Show" and last year's spring show was christened the "Beer & Mead Show."

As we have worked through our new contests, we recognized the need to make some adjustments. For instance, it came to our attention that categorizing certain classes with certain other classes made more sense. Also, it made more sense to have certain classes at either the fall Show or at the spring Show and vice versa. Hence, we have moved some classes around to make a better overall fit. In addition to last year's classes of Beer & Ale, Sweet & Dry Meads, Honey Cake, Honey Beverages, and the Queen's Own Recipe, we have now moved the Art, Crafts, and Photography classes from the fall Honey Show to the spring newly renamed Artisan's Show. These changes have positively impacted the quality and efficiency of our contests in the following ways: 1) it more closely follows and complements the actual calendar of beekeeping activities throughout the year; 2) it eliminated a lot of duplication of efforts (by both organizers and competitors) throughout the year; 3) it divvied up the number of total entries in each show, thereby decreasing work load for the volunteers at each respective event; and 4) it facilitated the actual designation of an annual "State Champion" in each of our show categories.

Our goal as a committee has been to come up with an enjoyable, fair, and rewarding system for organizing and administering GBA contests. We are constantly working, exploring, and challenging ourselves to find ways to make the GBA shows more enjoyable and accessible to all GBA members. We are really looking forward to the spring Artisan's Show and we hope to see you there...with your winning entry!

The classes for the 2017 GBA spring Artisan's Show are Sweet Mead, Dry Mead, Beer & Ale, Non-alcoholic Honey Beverage, Honey Cake, the Queen's Own Honey Blondie, Arts, Crafts, and Photography. Please see the GBA website for complete and official rules.

THE QUEEN'S OWN HONEY BLONDIE

- 1 cup honey
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans

In medium bowl, cream honey and butter until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Add flour and baking powder; mix until combined. Fold in chocolate chips and pecans. Spread batter into greased 9"x9" baking dish. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes, or until wooden toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Allow to cool completely. Cut into squares.

AWARDS FOR THE SPRING ARTISAN SHOW

In addition to ribbons and certificates, cash prizes will be awarded.

Best in Show \$250

In each class:

- First place \$100**
- Second place \$30**
- Third place \$20**



**SPRING
MEETING
2017**

FEBRUARY 17 & 18

UGA GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Featuring the

*SPRING
ARTISAN
SHOW*

*AND THE
WEBSITE AD
AUCTION*

**EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS**





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2017

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Jennifer Berry

Arthur "Brutz" English

Derrick Fowler

Randy Rolan

Broadus Williams



Dr. Marla Spivak

Dr. Marla Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and the Distinguished McKnight Professor at the University of Minnesota. Marla's interest in bees began while she worked for a commercial beekeeper in New Mexico. She later completed her BA in biology at Humboldt State University and her PhD at the University of Kansas. She spent two years in Costa Rica conducting her thesis research on the identification and ecology of Africanized and European honey bees. She began as Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota in 1993. Influenced by Martha Gilliam and Steve Taber from

the USDA Bee lab in Tucson, she became interested in hygienic behavior of honey bees. This interest has expanded into studies of "social immunity," including the benefits of propolis to the immune system of honey bees.

In June 2013 she presented for the prestigious TED series "Why Bees are Disappearing," which is available online.



Michele Colopy

Michele Colopy has been the Program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council since March 2013. Her father was a beekeeper in southeast Ohio. She keeps honey bees in the city, and has replaced her crabgrass front yard with pesticide-free pollinator flowers for her honey bees and native pollinators.

Ms. Colopy holds a master's degree in nonprofit management/arts administration, and a master's in higher education administration from The University of Akron. Her nonprofit experience includes work in the performing arts, housing and homelessness, foreclosure prevention, community development, and health and wellness. She is also a board member of the Medina County Beekeepers Association, and the treasurer of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.



Charlie Parton

Charlie operates Parton Apiaries, has been keeping bees for 37 years, and lives in Maryville Tennessee. He is active in the local Blount County Beekeepers Association, serving in several capacities including two terms as president. Charlie is the immediate past President of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association and past East TN Regional Vice President. He was selected as TBA Beekeeper of the year in 2011 and TBA Life Member in 2013. Charlie speaks at local schools, farmers markets, to beekeeping

associations around Tennessee and HAS. He runs between 70 to 80 colonies and sells honey, nucs and wax.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 17

5:30 PM Board Meeting

7:00 PM Dinner and lecture by Marla Spivak

Land use, bee nutrition, and bee health

Saturday, February 18

7:30-8:15 President's Breakfast: A meeting of attending local club presidents

8:00AM-12PM GBA Beer & Mead Show: Drop off entries in room 119

8:30-8:45 Opening remarks: Linda Tillman, GBA President

8:45-9:30 Marla Spivak: *Tech Transfer Teams*

9:30-10:15 Charlie Parton: *Making Nucs: How and Why?*

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 Michelle Colopy: *Mosquito Abatement Programs*

1:45-1:55 Break (change buildings)

1:55-2:40 Afternoon Breakout Sessions C

2:45-3:30 Afternoon Breakout Sessions D

3:30-3:45 Break (change buildings)

3:45-4:30 Marla Spivak:

Social Immunity: Propolis and hygienic behavior

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

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 SPEAKERS

Jennifer Berry has been the apicultural research coordinator and lab manager for the University of Georgia honey bee program for the past seventeen years. She is a regular columnist for Bee Culture magazine. She also writes occasionally for other publications, including Bee World. She travels extensively to speak to local, state, national and international beekeeping associations. On evenings and weekends, Jennifer operates Honey Pond Farm, a queen and nuc business, which focuses on rearing healthy bees while selecting for longevity, pest resistance and honey production.



Paul Berry is a fifth generation resident of Columbus, Ga. He has been interested in beekeeping since a neighbor solicited help with his hives 35 years ago. Partial, then full retirement 12 years ago gave Paul the free time to begin keeping bees on his own. He keeps between 40 and 60 hives most of the year. While he enjoys the products of the bees, his true satisfaction comes from learning about bees, teaching beekeeping and talking about bees to anyone who will listen.



Kathy Bourn is a hobby beekeeper with an assortment of hives on her farm in Hartwell, Georgia. She enjoys building a variety of hive designs and equipment for her 15 or so colonies. Kathy is the President of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association and a member of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association.



Kelley Campbell is a Certified Beekeeper, and has been keeping bees for four years. She's an active member in multiple bee clubs and discussion groups (Forsyth Beekeepers, Beekeepers of Gwinnett Co, Cherokee Beekeepers Club, Atlanta Beekeeping Naturally Meetup, Union Hill Beekeepers), and enjoys sharing this hobby with others.



Lonnie Funderburg is the president of the Walker County Beekeepers Association. He was the editor of The Stinger, newsletter of the Alabama Beekeepers Association for fourteen years. He is a past president of the Alabama Beekeepers Association and was Beekeeper of the Year in 2009. Funderburg became a Georgia Master Beekeeper in 2005 and has been an instructor at Young Harris Beekeeping Institute since 2008. Since 2015, he has participated in the Sentinel Hive Project with the University of Maryland.



Randy Rolan is a Master Beekeeper from Ringgold. Randy is passionate about pursuing the never ending quest for knowledge about honeybees. One of his favorite things to do is share knowledge about honeybees with new beekeepers. He has taught "Introduction to Beekeeping" at local colleges, clubs, and other organizations. Randy is a charter member of the Chattooga Beekeepers and an active member in the GA, TN, and AL Beekeepers Associations.



Virginia Stephens Webb grew up keeping honeybees. Beekeeping and teaching others about bees is her passion. She and her husband Carl are full time commercial beekeepers in North Georgia. For over 25 years Virginia has been a honey judge, and was the first in the U.S. to achieve the Welsh Honey Judging certification in 2001. Currently she serves as the senior honey judge for the Apimondia's World Honey Show and will be the Judge's Referee at the 2017 World Honey Show in Istanbul, Turkey. The Webbs have the distinction of achieving the most international awards in the world for their honey.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Morning Breakout Sessions, A and B

Jennifer Berry: Certified Naturally Grown vs. Organic
SLC room 115

CNG apiary standards outline best beekeeping practices that support honey bee health. This session will outline the CNG program and clarify differences between organic beekeeping and CNG.

Paul Berry: The art of capturing and saving swarms
SLC room 105

Explore the myriad places where swarms can alight (high in a tree, low inside an auto grill. . .) and what methods and tools work best for retrieval. Using swarm traps and encouraging swarms to stay will also be discussed by this beekeeper who caught 45 swarms in 2016!

Michele Colopy: State Pollinator Protection Plans: What Beekeepers Need to Know
SLC room 104

The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging states to create managed pollinator protection plans. The Pollinator Stewardship Council is working with various state beekeeping individuals and associations to aid them in participating in their own state process. Learn what you, as a beekeeper, should be concerned about and how you can be involved in the planning process.

Charlie Parton: Building A Honey House
SLC room 215

See how Mr. Parton built his state of the art honey house, and get some ideas to integrate into your operation.

Lonnie Funderburg: Beekeeping equipment: tips and tricks
SLC room 216

Jigs, glues, and tools, oh my! Learn the hows and whys about methods and materials used to put together supers and frames.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions, C and D

Kathleen Bourn: Alternative hives: beekeeping outside the box
SLC room 115

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 they many designs that can be used to house bees. It's what puts the "keep" in "beekeeper".

Kelley Campbell: Rookie mistakes: tips and tricks for new beekeepers
SLC room 215

Coming out of winter can be a stressful time for new beekeepers. Learn what to expect this spring and get your questions answered in a non-judgmental forum.

Michele Colopy: Migratory beekeeping: why keeping them alive is so difficult
SLC room 104

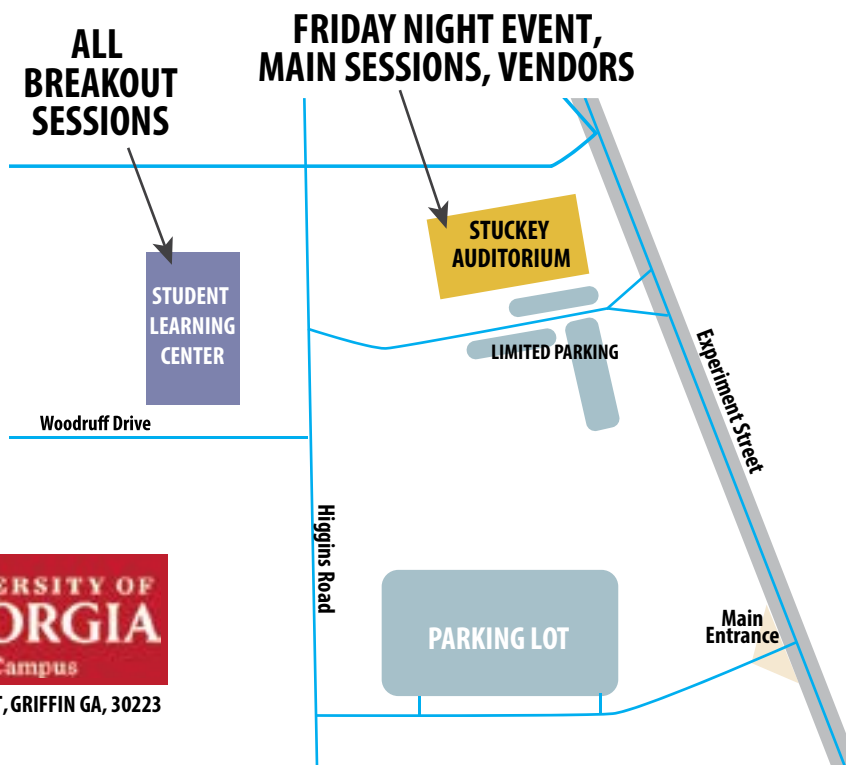
Crop pollination is key to one-third of our delicious, nutritious diet. Yet, beekeeper and their honey bee encounter a myriad of pesticides as they migrate across the country. Learn about the issues affecting beekeepers as they work to provide pollination services for our fruits, nuts, vegetables and seeds.

Randy Rolan: Create a Beekeeping Course
SLC room 216

Learn how to increase your club membership and build membership cohesion by running a successful beekeeping course at your club.

Virginia Webb: Preparing award winning entries for honey shows
SLC room 105

Four time winner of the Best Honey in the World, Virginia Webb will share her technical expertise to help you win awards in 2017!



1109 EXPERIMENT STREET, GRIFFIN GA, 30223



FEBRUARY 2017

Spilling The Honey

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marla Spivak is one of the most well-known people in the beekeeping world today. [Her TED talk](#) has been watched by over two million people. She will be here, here in our state, here at our spring meeting! If you haven't ever heard her speak, you can't afford to miss her. She will be speaking on two different topics on Saturday the 18th at our all day conference. If you want another special opportunity to hear her, sign up for the Friday night dinner before the conference where you

can hear her on a third topic while you enjoy a delicious dinner. If you haven't registered for the meeting yet, [click here](#).

It takes an enthusiastic village to create our two annual meetings. Jennifer Berry did an outstanding job getting us three nationally known speakers: Marla Spivak, Michele Colopy who is program director of the [Pollinator Stewardship Council](#), and Charlie Parton, a commercial beekeeper who is well-known across the southeast.

Gina Gallucci is the vice-president every president should be lucky enough to have. We talk frequently and make most GBA decisions together. She takes her position seriously and has totally jumped into the job of chairing the meeting committee. Julia, Gina and I have met almost weekly to plan and work on this meeting.

Brutz English has been a major mover and shaker, connecting with many companies, hotels, and restaurants in Griffin to create opportunities for all of us to enjoy while we are there. Many companies in Griffin are providing coupons for the products and services available at their stores in Griffin, so if you arrive early on Friday, plan to take advantage of these. We'll send an email with the coupons to registrants ahead of the meeting. Brutz also has many of his club members lined up to volunteer to help during the actual conference.

Each of these people has contributed to the success of our meetings. We start work on the next meeting almost the minute the previous meeting is completed. We have several goals: to have interesting and good speakers; to meet in a nice place with good technology for our speakers and members; to provide a good lunch so that we can keep everyone on campus, allowing more time for vendors, speakers and breakouts.

We'll send a link to an evaluation to each of you after the meeting so you can give us your feedback and suggestions for the next meeting.

Hope to see all of you in Griffin in February.

Linda Tillman
President, Georgia Beekeepers Association

THE HORIZONTAL HIVE: A BACK SAVING ALTERNATIVE

By Anita Curry

Here's my horizontal Langstroth hive that I will be moving my colony into in a few weeks. Last summer when I discovered I could not lift my honey supers off my brood box, I knew I needed an alternative plan. I began researching and found a plan for this horizontal hive. It's different from a top bar hive in that it accepts standard size deep frames. It is very economical to build (about \$90) and easier to access and manage. I did modify the plan by adding dividers, a hinged lid and top feeders.

I feel that other beekeepers may also be in my position and not be physically able to lift heavy supers. It is my hope that this design will help in the management of their bees.

If you're interested in more information on this design and my experience with it, please email me at anitacurry1159@gmail.com.



I AM SO HAPPY IT WAS ONLY STARVATION!

I know this is terrible, but colony death by plain old starvation is preferable to me than losing them to complications from varroa. On January 16th I found no life in this seemingly healthy colony. It was unseasonably warm, so I popped the lids to get an idea of how they were managing the huge temperature fluctuations. I found a the dearly departed cluster between the first and second frames. This is always heartbreaking. It especially hurts when you find all the honey they put up just two frames to the right. In this case there were five frames of honey and they were not able to get to it while we had four days of freezing temperatures a few days early. They were gone, but not to disease, just lack of food.

Gina Gallucci

NORTH AMERICAN BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

Galveston, Texas, January 10 to 14, 2017 By Steven Page

About 1500 people from the USA and Canada attended the conference with over 100 companies and organizations offering goods and services at the trade fair. The trade fair included everything from a hive tool to a trailer with a complete 120 frame extractor line able to extract 3,000 pounds of honey per hour.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, former USDA research scientist. Dr. Lundgren talked about how the poor survival of honey bee colonies is part of the greater problem of farming methods in the United States. He now runs [Blue Dasher Farm](#), a demonstration farm in South Dakota teaching better methods of farming. The farm includes honey bee colonies.

The second keynote speaker was Dr. Jeff Pettis, former USDA scientist who spoke about neonicotinoids and honey bees. A significant statement in his presentation attributed winter colony losses to 10% historical losses, 10% Varroa and 10% neonicotinoids. Dr. Pettis lives and works in Switzerland.

Read more about both men and the USDA. [USDA suppressing bee science?](#)

There were days of classes and talks for everyone from children to adults. Honey bee nutrition and supplements, Varroa management, honey production and breeding bees to name a few of the classes. Many honey bee researchers gave updates on their research.

BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood



CAPTION CONTEST WINNER

"Wrong end, Mom" -Jane Quattlebaum

Photo courtesy of Ben Moore, from his Instagram feed, *bensbeesau*.

TIPS FOR STARTING A NEW BEEKEEPING CLUB

by Steve Nofs, Master Beekeeper

With the increased interest in bees and beekeeping over the last several years, there has been a corresponding growth in the number of local beekeeping clubs. Some start as a small unorganized group of beekeepers looking for a more formal conduit to gain and share knowledge. Others branch out from larger successful existing clubs much like a swarm seeks to strike out on its own to set up an independent colony. Either way, there are some common issues that beginning organizations face. Having been through a few startups, here are some suggestions and lessons learned picked up along the way.

First is the meeting time and place. Monthly seems to be the standard, but I have seen clubs in other states that meet bimonthly or even quarterly. Meeting days can vary as well although most all are on weekdays. At least here in Georgia, Wednesdays should be avoided as that is church night for a lot of folks. The facility itself should be centrally located to the membership, somewhat larger than required to accommodate growth, but most importantly must be reliable. Nothing is more aggravating than for the facility to bump your club at the last minute, not everyone gets the word, and members show up to an unrelated meeting. Once a time, date, and location are set it should not change - ever. This allows the meetings to become a habitual part of people's routines. Some facilities charge, but many are free. Often churches and community centers can offer meeting places. Wherever you meet, make sure you leave it neater and cleaner than you found it.

Second is the meeting structure. Some clubs have strict adherence to Robert's Rules of Order with formal agendas and meeting minutes. Others just gather in a room and talk about bees. The former turns many people off who just want to learn more about their hobby. The latter usually deteriorates into a social hour where not a lot of beekeeping information gets to those who need it. The ideal is somewhere in between. Meetings should be planned and announced ahead of time so folks know what's coming and can plan accordingly. Some folks may want to reorganize their schedule two months ahead of time so they can hear that one particular speaker talk about small hive beetles. When possible, all

Make membership open to ALL beekeepers – conventional, treatment free, Langstroth hive users, top bar hive users, and yes even those who bought a Flow Hive.

meetings should have at least a short Q&A session to answer specific questions. Beekeepers who encounter problems often show up only to get their specific question answered. Usually others are having the same problem and can benefit from the answer. On a related note, due to the seasonal nature of beekeeping, some time should be spent answering the question - "What should I be doing now?" Local knowledge and experience are things that local clubs can offer that isn't available anywhere else.

Third, is club leadership. Usually this is in the form of elected officers, but doesn't have to be. Regardless, a club needs a point person (president) to keep things organized and communicate to the membership. Club presidents need three qualities: effective communication skills, be well organized, and most importantly have the time to devote to the job. Note the obvious omission. Nowhere does it say they need to be a knowledgeable experienced beekeeper. Often folks new to beekeeping shy away from leadership positions because they don't feel qualified. This is unfortunate. I can tell you firsthand that not all good beekeepers make good club presidents and not all good presidents make good beekeepers. A club president doesn't have to have all the answers to members' questions, they only need to connect the member to the person with the answer.

Fourth is bylaws. Yes, they are a mundane list of rules that nobody ever reads, but they are important. A mission statement is good to identify and codify the club's purpose for being. If the club has officers, the frequency and process for selecting them needs to be documented.

If the club collects money of any kind, bylaws are a necessity to govern who can do what with the membership's money. Most club decisions are fairly routine and votes overwhelmingly lopsided. But once in awhile an issue comes along that can severely divide the membership. A well-documented process is essential to deciding those issues in a fair and impartial manner.

Fifth is money. Most clubs decide to collect dues right off the bat for no reason other than if you have a club you have to collect dues, right? As ESPN's Lee

Be respectful of other beekeepers' opinions – no matter how wrong you think they

Cater to and make special effort to help those just learning beekeeping.

Corso would say when countering conventional college football wisdom, "Not so fast my friend." Collecting money for no specific purpose is akin to collecting taxes with no tangible benefit. If the beekeeping needs of the membership can be met without cost, why the need to collect money? The point isn't to say that clubs shouldn't collect money. Money can be a valuable asset in accomplishing the club's mission. The point is that the need for money should start with the requirement. If the membership wants all local free speakers and a volunteer potluck dinner event, then no funds are needed. If the membership wants expensive out of town experts to speak, sponsor a club social, provide prize money for a honey show, etc. then a budget should be developed and the requisite funds collected. The government calls it "bottom up budgeting" – even though they don't do it. Lastly, there are options to dues. One option I have seen bring in much more money than perfunctory dues is a monthly raffle of donated items (beekeeping related or otherwise). Where dues paying seems compulsory, people willingly pay for the chance to win something and it can add some fun to the meetings.

Lastly, I would end with three tenets that I think all clubs should live by:

- 1) Make membership open to ALL beekeepers – conventional, treatment free, Langstroth hive users, top bar hive users, and yes even those who bought a Flow Hive.
- 2) Be respectful of other beekeepers' opinions – no matter how wrong you think they are.
- 3) Cater to and make special effort to help those just learning beekeeping. That is how we expand the craft.

HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD YOU PAY FOR THIS JANUARY SWARM?

By Rick Moore

Recently I was called about a large hive of bees. It turns out it was a feral colony of bees which appeared to have been there for quite a while as you can see in the pictures. It had four lengths of comb and a lot of bees inside. I would have loved to take this swarm home, but the property owner wanted to sell it. How much would you pay for this January swarm?



WELSHFEST HONEY SHOW

The fifth annual WELSHfest Honey Show and Contest, will be Saturday March 18th, 2017 in Rockmart Georgia.

The WELSHfest Honey Show will take place in the SILVER COMET TRAILHEAD BUILDING, on the Euharlee Creek side of Museum Square in Downtown Rockmart. Please use the Water Street Door to submitting entries.

Drop off parking Spaces will be marked off. The Building will be open at 9am to accept entries. All Entries must be submitted by 11:00am. All entries will be judged by rules posted on this website.

Winners will be announced by 1:00pm. The building will be open after that for public viewing. Prizes award at Closing Ceremony. Entries may be picked up at 4:00pm.

For more information visit <http://welshfest.vpweb.com/HONEY-SHOW.html>

Photo Gallery



Feeding bees before splitting by Suzette Binnie.



Waiting for Spring, by Christine Fahrnbauer.



This billboard was seen near Jackson, GA, and sent to us anonymously.

Send us your bee related photos for the next newsletter!

gbanewsletters@gmail.com



SPRING

MEETING

2017

FEBRUARY 17 & 18

UGA GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Featuring the

SPRING
ARTISAN
SHOW

AND THE
WEBSITE AD
AUCTION

New Location

Due to policy changes at CGTC in Milledgeville, we have moved the location of our spring meeting to the University of Georgia's Griffin campus.

New, optional Friday night event

Friday night, February 17 at 7:00 pm, our keynote speaker Marla Spivak, PhD will present a lecture while we enjoy a gourmet meal, catered by Margo's Mediterranean Restaurant. GBA is funding half of the cost of the meal, asking members to pay \$10 when registering for the Friday night event.

Boost your business with a website ad

Once a year we auction off valuable advertising spots on the GBA website. The 2017 auction will be held during the spring meeting at 4:30 pm on Saturday, February 18. You must be present to bid.

Registration information

Registration for members is \$45, and includes lunch with gluten-free and vegetarian options available. **After February 10, the registration fee goes up to \$65.** [Click here to register.](#)

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

Meet the vendors

Feel free to place your spring equipment orders now and have them delivered to the meeting, saving shipping fees!

My Hive Tool
Rossmann
Quilter: Trish Keller
Dept of Agriculture: Kevin Lamons
Buster's Bees
Mann Lake
Dancing with Bees
Bee Lite Candles
Oxvap
Honest Bee Hives

Spring Artisan Show

The classes for the 2017 GBA spring Artisan's Show are Sweet Mead, Dry Mead, Beer & Ale, Non-alcoholic Honey Beverage, Honey Cake, the Queen's Own Honey Blondie, Arts, Crafts, and Photography. Please see the [GBA website](#) for complete and official rules.

In addition to ribbons and certificates, cash prizes will be awarded:

Best in Show \$250
In each class:
First place \$100
Second place \$30
Third place \$20

Club News

Coastal Empire Beekeepers

CEBA will be hosting our Fundamentals of Beekeeping on February 25 from 8-4:30. Cost is \$50 per person which include "First Lessons in Beekeeping" by Keith Delaplane.

2016 Coweta Beekeeper of the Year

The Coweta Beekeeper of the year award was one of the highlights of the Christmas party on December 12, 2016. We are proud to announce Mike Dixon the 2016 Coweta Beekeeper of the year.



Mike has been an active member of the Coweta Beekeepers Association for many years and has volunteered for various duties including raffle sales at the monthly meeting and helping with the Introduction to Beekeeping class each January.

Forsyth Beekeepers

On February 25, 2017, Forsyth Beekeepers will hold Bee School - Classroom in the Armory in Cumming, GA. Cost is \$25 for members, \$45 for non-members. \$5 each additional lunch

(includes classroom and hands on classes)

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Anita Curry and Rick Moore presented two breakout session on beekeeping and the importance of teaching beekeeping in the classroom to the FFA/FCCLA Spring Conference in Covington, GA on January 18, 2017. The ag-teachers were encouraged to go beyond teaching basic pollination to their students, and to start active hives and beekeeping at the middle school and high school level. Several teachers currently doing that responded in the breakout session. All GBA clubs are encouraged to contact their local schools to pursue beekeeping in the school. The future of beekeeping is our youth.

Anita Curry and Rick Moore entertained and educated the ladies of Shirley Hills Garden Club, in Macon recently. In addition to hearing about the queen bee, personal adventures and misadventure tales told, the ladies sampled honeys as diverse as wildflower, Afghanistan, creamed honey, and a flavored honey (by accident!)

All bee clubs are encouraged to seek out local civic clubs and organizations in which they can educate the population on honey bees.



GBA PRISON PROGRAM

Brutz English will begin teaching beekeeping at Al Burrus Correctional Facility in Forsyth, GA, on February 20, 2017. This will be the sixth Georgia correctional facility to have an inmate beekeeping program.

Below is our current list of GBA clubs and their presidents. Please feel free to contact neighboring clubs and ask questions about local problems, fund raisers and share resources. This list will make GBA stronger by making it easier for all of us to get in contact with and stay in contact with other clubs and GBA members. It is you the membership which drives the GBA in practices and principles. We now have a valuable tool to make that easier.

Altamaha Beekeepers Assn	Holly Nielson
Amicalola Beekeepers	James Marcus
Appalachian Beekeepers	Bill Norris
Bartow County	Arron Robinson
Beekeepers of Gwinnett	Dave Collins
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Brian Drebber
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Travis Sturdivant
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Jim Ellis
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Sophia Price
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Steve Posey
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Terry Norman
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Greg Stewart
Coweta County Beekeepers	Dan Scales
East Metro Beekeepers	Greg Zechman
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lena Franklin/Chris Garmon
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Robert Quarterman
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Teri Meyer
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Rick Moore
Henry County Beekeepers	Brutz English
Lake Country Beekeepers	Mary Lacksen
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Kathy Bourn
Little River Beekeepers	Slade Mercer
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Holly Bayendor
Mountain Beekeepers	Glen Henderson
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Katie Goodman
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Roger Ardis
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Bobby Colson
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Joe Conti
Paulding County	Victor Halbgewachs
Pine Grove Beekeepers	Beth Baker
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Brutz English
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Barry Hart
SOWEGA	Gail Raket
Tara Beekeepers	Pat Brookshire
Tri-County Beekeepers	Bobby Chaisson
Tri-State Beekeepers	Derick Forester
Troup County Beekeepers	Brad Myers
Walton County Beekeepers	Gary Selph
West Georgia Beekeepers	Marilynn Parker

February Meetings



Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Clarks Hill Beekeepers		Mon, Feb 7, 7pm	Columbia County Extension office	Appling, GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn		Mon, Feb 13, 7pm	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Holly Bayendor-how to put together a Children's program	Thurs, Feb 23, 630pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Dan Davis - Mead demonstration, Birthday party for Jesse McCurdy	Tues, Feb 21, 7pm	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd, Perry, GA 31069	Perry, GA
Lake Country Beekeepers Association	Mr. Dan Harris - Booger Hill Bee Company; Springtime Beekeeping and Swarm Management	Mon, Feb 20, 6:30pm	UGA Extension Building 12534 Augusta HWY	Sparta, GA
Little River Beekeepers	Swarming	Tues, Feb. 28, 6:30pm	Cook County Ag Extension Office.	Adel GA
Macon Beekeepers Association	beekeeping equipment and how to assemble it. guest speaker. Johnny Davis	Thurs, Feb 2, 6pm	The Wellness Center	3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Jonathan Nixon bee inspector	Thurs, Feb 23, 6pm	RJ's Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Tara Beekeepers Association	Guests are always welcome	Mon, Feb 20, 7pm	Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street	Forest Park, Ga. 30297



Recently this was seen on Facebook, so you know it has to be true.

I wonder how much the ensemble costs? Or if the knitting pattern is available on Ravelry?



MARCH 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our spring meeting broke records for attendance with over 300 registered participants. We packed the auditorium at the UGA Griffin campus to hear Marla Spivak, Michele Colopy and Charlie Parton. Marla was the keynote speaker at a special dinner on Friday night and kept us all fascinated with her discussion of the many ways she and her graduate students are working to learn more about the bees. I loved receiving many positive comments about the social aspect of the dinner

which provided an opportunity to sit at a table and talk with beekeepers from all over the state.

On the business side of things, the GBA board met to start the discussion of a number of items including the plan to keep GBA decisions and documents "in the cloud," the 100th anniversary of GBA which will take place in 2020, and the possibility of GBA sponsoring a state bee license plate for cars.

Local club presidents gathered for breakfast on Saturday morning and shared ideas with me and each other about how GBA might be of more help to the local clubs. We talked about providing speaker information to clubs more easily, coming up with packets to help the presidents share GBA information with their clubs, and providing a new president orientation at the GBA meetings. Among other topics, we also discussed trying to find an online way to share handouts and other bee information with each other.

At the conference on Saturday, there was something for everyone. Lonnie Funderburg talked about building bee equipment and Kelley Campbell spoke on rookie mistakes, both topics that might appeal to relatively new beekeepers. Randy Rolen gave a breakout on creating a beekeeping course to help local clubs start a short course. Michele Colopy talked about migratory beekeeping and Charlie Parton talked about building a honey house, both topics that might draw commercial beekeepers. We tried to have something at every beekeeping level. Marla Spivak gave a talk about the tech teams that her group sends to help commercial beekeepers all over the country. The conference ended with a very interesting talk by Marla on how/why bees use propolis.

If you missed it, it was a great beekeeping gathering, and I hope you are planning to come in October to hear Randy Oliver, among others.

Many thanks to the meeting committee. Gina Gallucci, Julia Mahood and I have worked all year in the planning of this meeting. Brutz English practically moved heaven and earth in Griffin to make it all go as smoothly as it could. Marybeth Kelley served as secretary and gatekeeper for the artisan show which had some really good entries. Bear Kelley worked hard throughout the meeting, managing the registrants. And we have already had the first of many meetings to plan the fall GBA conference. Hope to see you there!

Linda Tillman
President, GBA



THE SPRING ARTISAN'S SHOW



2017 GBA Artisan Show Winners

Judges: Jay Parsons, Sr. Judge, Brutz English, Rodney Garner, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Elizabeth Olson.

Show Secretaries: Marybeth Kelley, Terry Holland and Barbara Phillips.

There were 38 entries by 24 participants.

Photography:

Commendable - Julia Mahood

Highly Commendable - William Thacker

Very Highly Commendable - Gina Gallucci

Third Place - Bear Kelley

Second Place - Jennifer Berry

First Place - Deborah Sasser



Queen's Blondies:

Commendable - Lisa Hogue

Third Place - Barbara Phillips

Second Place - Julia Mahood



Honey Cake:

Commendable - Rodney Garner

Highly Commendable - Lisa Hogue

Very Highly Commendable - Tim Hoffman

Third Place - Barbara Phillips

Second Place - Sandi Williams



Sweet Mead:

Second Place - Tim Hoffman

Dry Mead:

Third Place - Dan Davis

Second Place - Rodney Garner

First Place - Annette Jackson

Beer & Ale:

Commendable - Brad Myers

Highly Commendable - Michael Hogue

Third Place - Randy Rolan

Honey Beverage:

Third Place - Mark Davis

Second Place - Cindy Collins

First Place - Lisa Hogue

Art:

Third Place - Gina Gallucci

Second Place - Stephen Jones

First Place - Julia Mahood

Crafts:

Very Highly Commendable - Lena Franklin

Third Place - Lisa Hogue

First Place - Bobby Chaisson

Best In Show:

Bobby Chaisson



DESTINATION DREBBIEVILLE

Drebbieville has become something of a destination for beekeepers interested in learning about AZ hives – the bee cabinets that eliminate heavy lifting. This design is of particular interest to those of us who find ourselves less able and certainly less willing to lift and carry honey supers or disassemble an entire hive to perform inspections.

We would invite individuals or groups to visit our climate controlled indoor apiary located in Cherokee County Georgia to see for themselves how easy and pleasant the beekeeping experience can be – minus the hot, heavy work usually associated with the activity.

To get an idea of what this is all about, take a look at some of the videos on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJJA4-IiHCWxIWDWjAoRX-A> Contact us at drebbievillehives@gmail.com and visit our website <http://www.drebbievillehives.com/> or “Drebbieville Hives” on Facebook.



CAPTION CONTEST

Photo courtesy of Hilary Kearney, from her Instagram feed, *girlnextdoorhoney*.

“Don’t ‘Bee’ the Weak Link!”

- Linda Rivers

“I said, form a clockwise circle. If you don’t get it right, it’s back to Bee School” - Dave Collins

“The UGA bees practicing spelling “Go Dawgs” for the football halftime show”

- Brad Myers

“You put your left tarsi in, you put your left tarsi out, you put your left tarsi in, and you shake it all about...” - Joe Conti

“Bee connected, join a local club!”

- Clay “Bear” Kelley

“If Ringling Brothers had us instead of those huge old elephants, they never would have gone out of business!”

- Linda Tillman

EARLY SWARM MEETS THE DOG

by Scott Lund

Spring came really early for us. The day after we returned from our first Georgia Beekeepers meeting, where we neglected to attend the swarm course, one of our two hives swarmed and the cluster set up on a limb 25 feet over the hive. Then we saw a cluster of bees on the walkway, intently focused on something.....but what? Brush them away, and we can see that there is a queen, a virgin queen, no less. As we considered next moves, the answer came to us as the dog trotted over to inspect the ruckus and neatly stepped into the middle of the bee cluster. You guessed it—he flattened the queen. The bees punished the dog soundly and he briskly took off from the scene of the crime. We retrieved the deceased and had our first look at a virgin queen. We surmised her virginity because of her slender abdomen. Had she stepped out for her mating flight, weakened, and fell to the ground? Had she emerged as the swarm began and been caught up in the frenzy and flew out before she was ready for mating? Sadly, we'll never know for sure.

But what of the status of the hive that swarmed? Was it now queenless and in trouble? The next day, again sunny and in the 70's, we inspected both deeps. Having consulted with fellow beekeepers, we developed two options depending on what we found: 1) If there were no young larvae (less than 3-4 days) and not many bees, we could combine the hive with our second but less vigorous hive. 2) If there were capped queen cells, indicating that our deceased virgin didn't annihilate all her sisters, we had a chance that the hive could re-queen. Hoping for option #2, we inspected and found about half the frames with brood, including some very young larvae. Using a magnifying glass was helpful but it was hard to be sure we weren't seeing the sunlight reflect off the bottom of the cells. (Reality is harder to discern and is less clear than the marvelous photos in the beekeeping books!) However, in the bottom of the second deep we found several frames with capped queen cells. We put all the frames back and decided that once again, the bees were taking care of themselves, despite our fumbling on recovering the virgin, our bumbling dog, and our inexperience.

This is our second year and the learning curve continues to be a bit steep. One notable success is that we are good at raising a lot of bees, having propagated three swarms from two hives in less than a year's time. Now, if we could only harvest some honey!

Photo Gallery

Photos by Mary Lacksen





Dear Aunt Bee,

I've been reading in my bee mags that there are new and creative ways to use oxalic acid, namely mixing it with other substrates, that's being used with great success in treating bees for Varroa in California. Should we be trying these things in Georgia?

Signed,

—Mad about Mites

Dear Mad,

What works in California doesn't necessarily work in Georgia, but more importantly, without studies being done in our bees in our climate, we don't know if it is safe—both for the bees and the beekeepers!

So please stick to the approved methods of delivery of oxalic acid in treating mites, for now.

Better safe than sorry!

Signed,

—Aunt Bee

Thanks to Jennifer Berry for answering our Aunt Bee question this month.

Note to self

Take time to notice the small things in life. Like the beautiful blooming dandelion at your feet. There is nothing prettier than dandelions and honey bees, nor anything better for the bees to eat.

By Rick Moore



BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood

AIR BEE & BEE LISTING

Charming cell in a great neighborhood with breathtaking view of the new queen's nursery! Lots of pollen and honey within walking distance.

Call 1-AIR-BEE-N BEE for reservations.



You don't see that every day

By Steve Nofs

Here are a couple things you don't see every day.

The first pic is a little scorpion taken in a yard in Lizella, Georgia.



The second is a mouse with a nest in the bottom of a feeder taken in a yard in Gray, Georgia.

You never know what you might find in a deadout.

THE ZEN OF FINDING A BEEKEEPING CLUB

By Mike Roshaven

I've been a beekeeper for five years now. But just two weeks ago became a member of the Paulding County Beekeepers club. As I sat in that first meeting, listening to the aspiring first timers ask questions, and the old pros give their various answers and advice, I couldn't help but wonder where I would now be in my beekeeping life had I started off by going here first.

A new beekeeper knows nothing. We've all been there, and we all have some funny, sad, painful, mesmerizing, frustrating and glorious memories of our first few times with the ladies. While the value of keeping bees is different for each and every beekeeper, we all have one very basic, very deep-seated goal in mind. To keep our bees healthy, vibrant and productive. Nothing else really overarches that, I think.

Over my five years, I have had about ten hives. I now have one. Even last year, when I arrogantly thought I was ready to expand from one to five hives, I lost four of them over the winter. My mistakes over these years have been so plentiful I could write a book, set up a YouTube channel, or drone for hours on the vagaries of losing bees, usually to my politely listening family members or co-workers.

Had I joined the Paulding Beekeepers five years ago, I think I would have still made countless mistakes. But I am sure far less than what I did, with far fewer hives dying, absconding or swarming, with far less money wasted on fruitless purchases, and I'm just guessing—less stings. Or maybe more. I think I would prefer more stings—many more stings—than the prospect of losing another hive to dumb mistakes or lack of knowledge so readily available.

Whether you are that aspiring apiarist prepping to take the plunge, or that old pro that is as in love with their bees as ever, seek out your nearest club, make some apiary friends, and share the wealth. Let's Make Beekeeping Great Again Georgia!



Club News

Appalachian Beekeepers

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, Appalachian Beekeepers Assn of Georgia will hold a Field trip/hands-on demo from 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Located at Dancing Meadows Farm, Jasper, GA, and hosted by Bill & Cheryl Norris. Please email for directions (wnorris5@gmail.com). Topics included will be how to install a swarm supplied by John Tackett, hive inspection, frame manipulation, maybe do a split.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County will hold our 2nd annual Bee School. The class is geared to the beginner but anyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, First Lessons in Beekeeping book, door prize drawings, one year membership to our club and gifts from the hive. \$40 for non-members, \$35 for members, and \$30 for additional family members. Sign up information is on our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/gwinnettbeekeepers/>

Forsyth Beekeepers

Forsyth Beekeepers Club began their annual bee school in February. 34 people attended, including 10 local beekeeping mentors who volunteered their time. This classroom session prepared students to have a successful year in their apiary, as well as get them ready for the GA Certified Beekeeper Exam. Door prizes and raffle prizes were donated by members and local suppliers, and one lucky student even won a 5 frame nuc of bees!

The second day of bee school is hive side April 22 in Cumming. All are welcome to join. If you are ONLY attending Day 2, the cost is \$10 for members (\$30 for non members, and includes a year membership). [For more information / sign up.](#)

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba5a-82fa1f49-beeschool1>

(includes classroom and hands on classes)

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association will hold it's annual Beekeeping 101 class on

Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 9am. The classroom portion will be conducted at the Perry United Methodist Church in Perry, GA. The afternoon 'hands-on' portion will be at the Agriculture research center on I-75 at Byron, GA. Cost is \$20 per person, with middle school and high school students admitted for free with a paid parent. Further information will be made available on our Facebook page.

Lake Country Beekeepers

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association met on Monday, February 20th in Sparta GA. More than 40 of our members attended and learned from Dan Harris of Booger Hill Bee Company about Spring Management and Swarm Control. Mr. Harris works over 80 hives near Danielsville, sells honey at the Athens Farmers Market and teaches a beekeeping course at the State Botanical Gardens. He encourages beekeepers to get inside their hives often and to observe the signs of swarming such as queen cells and congestion. One needs to look patiently for the swarm cells that might be obscured by a large number of bees this time of year. Managing and catching swarms is a beekeeper's responsibility especially if bees relocate to places that adversely affect your non-beekeeping neighbors. Upcoming LCBA events include a Hive Workshop and Open House at Morgan Apiaries in Sparta late February and our monthly meeting on Monday, March 20th. Look for information on Lake County Beekeepers Association Facebook.

Tara Beekeepers Association

Tara Beekeepers Association Short Course will be held on Saturday March 4, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297. For more Information: www.tarabeekeepers.org

West Georgia Beekeepers

West Georgia Beekeepers Association will present a short course on beekeeping on March 4, 2017 at the American Legion Hall at 6449 Bankhead Hwy., Douglasville, GA 30133 from 8AM to 4PM.

\$50 for individuals, \$55 for families. Free breakfast and lunch and membership included.

Walton County Beekeepers

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, several bumble bee and honey bee species are endangered or in decline. However, what's not in decline is a genuine enthusiasm among many people to learn about bees and beekeeping.

Walton County Beekeepers Association hosted their first One-Day Short Course for Beginners on January 28, 2017. Initially, they anticipated about 30 guests. However, the final count was close to 100 people.



The guest speaker was Brett Nolan IV, PhD. Brett received his Bachelor's in Wildlife Biology and a Master's in Entomology from Clemson University. During a joint UGA-Clemson research project, Brett was introduced to the UGA Honey Bee Program. Upon finishing his Masters, Brett moved to Athens to finish his education at the UGA. While earning his degree, he gave many talks to honey bee clubs, and local schools and served as an annual instructor at the Young Harris/UGA Beekeeping Institute. He completed his PhD in May 2016.

The day was superb. Guests intently listened and took notes as Brett unraveled every aspect about bees and beekeeping. A continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks were professionally catered by one of the Association's members. There were plenty of door prizes, too. These prizes included coupons donated by Chick-fil-A, Loganville, Larry's local honey, Premium Alpaca Soil Amendment by Farma-

ceuticals International, and various items of hive equipment. The Grand Prize was a Bee Hive Starter Kit donated by Boss Brothers County Store of Loganville, GA which was won by a young participant.

Walton County Beekeepers Association thanks everyone who participated in making this workshop extremely successful. Also, they want to thank the Georgia Beekeepers Association for their generous start-up donation of \$300. The entire amount was invested in the success of this workshop – money well spent for the future of bees and beekeeping.

Pine Grove Middle School

Broadus and "Bear" Kelley went to Hahara on January 11th to present the student president of the Pine Grove Middle School with their GBA charter certificate. They also gave a class on Honey and beeswax.

This is a unique club. They are actually a Middle School club with a teacher (Beth Baker) as their sponsor. They are managing the club in accordance with Roberts Rule of Order. The officers (who are GBA members) are students. So, not only are they learning beekeeping, they are getting a civics lesson as well. They currently have three healthy hives and hope to expand this spring. A very big thank you should go out to the teacher, Beth Baker for all her hard work in getting this program off the ground. Their next venture is to go to Seaworld and see how they treat animal wounds with honey.



March Meetings



Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Club of Georgia	Julia Mahood – “Splits, nucs and swam control”	Thurs, Mar 9, 7pm		
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Keith Fielder - Spring Build Up and What’s Out There for our Bees	Tue, Mar 14, 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church Dacula Module B	Dacula, GA
Clarks Hill Beekeepers	TBD	Mon, Mar 27, 7pm	Columbia County Extension office	Appling, GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	TBD	Mon, Mar 13, 7pm	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	TBD	Thurs, Mar 23, 630pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Panel of experts answer ALL your beekeeping questions	Tues, Mar 21, 7pm	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd, Perry, GA 31069	Perry, GA
Lake Country Beekeepers Association	Bill Owens, Beekeeping skills and making splits	Mon, Mar 20, 6:30pm	UGA Extension Building 12534 Augusta HWY	Sparta, GA
Little River Beekeepers	TBD	Tues, Mar. 28, 6:30pm	Cook County Ag Extension Office.	Adel GA
Macon Beekeepers Association	TBD	Thurs, Mar 2, 6pm	The Wellness Center	3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association	Dwight Wells, on the topic of "The Heart of Change" Creating and Managing Nucs	Wed, Mar 8, 7-9pm	Mershon Hall, at Atlanta Botanical Garden	Piedmont Ave. in Atlanta
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	TBD	Thurs, Mar 23, 6pm	RJ's Restaurant	Statesboro, GA
Tara Beekeepers Association	TBD	Mon, Mar 20, 7pm	Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street	Forest Park, Ga. 30297
Troup County Beekeepers Assn	Paul Berry/collecting hives for our annual beehive painting contest	Mon, Mar 20		
Walton County Beekeepers Assn	TBD	Tues, Mar 21, 7-9pm	Center Hill Baptist Church, 6372 GA-20, (2nd floor)	Loganville, GA
West Georgia Beekeepers Assn	TBD	Mon, Mar 27, 6:30p mentoring, 7p meeting	American Legion Post 145. 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway	Douglasville, Ga



APRIL 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling ^{The} Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our bylaws state that our first purpose is to promote and support the practice of beekeeping in the state of Georgia. What better way to support beekeeping in Georgia than with a honey bee license plate in 2018? The GBA Board of Directors met in a conference call meeting on March 26 to decide about sponsoring a honey bee specialty plate for vehicles in Georgia. The elected Board of Directors as well as club presidents were invited to this meeting. The vote was unanimous to pursue the establishment of a state bee license plate!

We will now follow all the steps to get state approval for the license plate, with the hope that the plates will be available in 2018.

The application process begins with the design for the specialty plate. The GBA legislative committee proposes that we have a contest for the winning design. Wouldn't it be special for you to be the one who designs the honey bee plate for the state of Georgia! For years to come people will be driving vehicles throughout the state with your design on the back!

As you think about designing a plate, remember that license plates are relatively small and the design needs to be simple to be appreciated. Here are the guidelines for design submission as drawn up by the legislative committee:

1. Follow the GA rules for design specifics found [here](#). All designs must be submitted in either Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop (layered).
2. You may enter up to two designs. Once designs are submitted, all rights to the design and decisions to modify the design are assigned to GBA. If design changes are required the submitting artist agrees to work with the GBA committee and/or DOR.
3. Designs will be accepted from April 1 - June 15, 2017.
4. The top three designs will be selected by committee and presented to the Board of Directors to choose the winning design to submit to the Georgia Department of Revenue.
5. The winner will receive \$250, second place \$150, and third place \$100.
6. Entries should be emailed to both of the following addresses: gabeepresident@gmail.com and gba-beelicenseplate@gmail.com. Do not assume your entry has been received until you get a confirming email. Both email addresses belong to me - we have two to make sure we get your entry.
7. When I receive entries, each will be assigned a number/letter identification. Only I will know whose entry each is. I will forward the entries identified by number/letter only to the selection committee. This way the selection committee will be judging blindly with no knowledge of the entrant's identity.
8. Entries close at midnight on June 15, 2017.

When the winning design has been selected, the legislative committee and the board will complete the submission of documents and upon legislative approval, a honey bee specialty license plate will be available for your vehicles in 2018. If it is determined that the submitted designs do not meet the approval of the committee, GBA reserves the right to commission a design.

GBA will receive recurring proceeds from the sales of these plates for years. This money will be put to use to support our beekeeping endeavors both in local clubs and statewide.

We will be using social media and approaching garden clubs, environmental organizations, and other bee-friendly civic groups to market this unique license plate to all Georgia drivers. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and are so excited about GBA's endeavor to support the honey bee in Georgia.

Your GBA President,
Linda D. Tillman

THE SWARM EDITION



KEEPING YOUR BEES IN THE HIVE *by Virginia Webb*

Ah Spring. The birds are chirping, fish are jumping, flowers are blooming and the bees are *SWARMING*? Yes, it is the season of the year again when beekeepers need to pay attention to what is going on inside their hives and not lose their honey crop and their bees.

Swarming is a natural instinct for bees, but for urban beekeepers, you will want to keep in mind the potential hazard a swarm of bees can be for your neighbors. Good beekeeping practices are the best way to make honey, keep all your bees in the beehive and prevent swarming.

Here are a few tips that may help you this spring to keep your bees from swarming.

Inspect your hives on a regular basis for signs of swarming, like overcrowding in the brood nest and swarm cells being formed. Check your hives every 5-8 days until the major nectar flow begins in your area. Swarms are most likely to occur just weeks before a honey flow; so know what is blooming in your area and when it blooms.

Consider splitting the hive if it is overcrowded. First find the old queen and set her aside. Remove 3-4 frames of emerging brood, young larva and some eggs, then place these in a nuc box or hive. Have plenty of young bees to cover the brood and if needed shake or brush bees from the hive into the new hive. You may want to add a honey frame or feed this new nuc for a week or two. I suggest moving this new nuc or hive, a mile or more away for a short time but at least 2 weeks, from your original hive. Add drawn comb frames if available, or new foundation frames. If you have a replacement queen, introduce her within a day, or you can allow the bees to raise their own queen with the young brood in the hive.

Another method is to checkerboard your hive. This method can be used with a single or double brood chamber. The checkerboarding can help relieve the stress on the colony by providing space in a crowded brood chamber. Frames on each side of the brood chamber may be empty, or if full, may have only honey and pollen. By removing the end frames (2 from each side) you move these in-between the remaining brood frames. On center frame, one end frame, one center frame and one end frame. You will have 2 original center frames together on one end. If using double hive bodies it will be easier. Remove 5 frame from each hive body place the frames from each hive body into the opposite hive, between each frame. With this type of checkerboarding, it is best if you can keep eggs and very young brood nearer to the center of the brood nest.

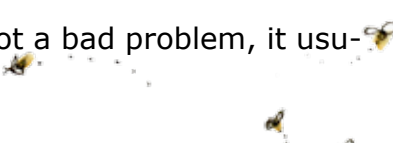
Do you utilize double brood chambers in your bee yard? **You can reverse the hive bodies.** Swap the bottom brood chamber with the top brood chamber.

When regularly inspecting your beehives and you see swarm cells, this would be a great time to split the hive. First make sure the original queen is still in the hive. Find her and set her aside. Remove all the frames where there are brood and find the best queen cell on a frame. I should add, handle this new queen cell with care. Cut all other queen cells out and place the frame with the good queen cell into a nuc box with 2 or 3 other brood frames. Sometimes I look at brood frames 2 or 3 times to ensure I have cut out all the queen cells.

Have plenty of bees in the new hive. Replace the original queen in the original hive, and using the checkerboarding method, place empty frames (drawn comb is preferred but if not use foundation) in the hive. Move the nuc box with the queen cell 1 mile or more away, for 2 weeks or more.

Other beekeeping management techniques to consider: ensure that hives are properly ventilated, and consider using a less swarming strain of honeybees.

In my experience, a hive building up rapidly and preparing to swarm is not a bad problem, it usually shows the hive is strong and healthy.



SWARMS *by Steve Page*

A queen laying worker eggs perpetuates the super organism known as the colony. It is not reproduction as an egg is to a chicken. Think of the eggs the queen lays as cell replacement in your body; it maintains the organism.

Queen cells in a colony may be used to supersede or swarm. A supersedure cell is used to perpetuate the super organism. Swarm cells are for reproduction. This article will discuss reproductive swarms. After-swarms or other types of swarms like fall swarms will not be discussed.

A queen laying worker eggs is survival of the colony; swarming is survival of the species.

"Honey bees are motivated by survival of the colony. Survival of the existing colony is priority one. In the spring, priority two is the generation of the reproductive swarm." Walt Wright <http://beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/>

Every colony's goal every year is to produce a swarm (offspring). However, a colony will not produce a swarm if it would jeopardize the survival of the colony. Weak colonies do not produce swarms.

As the queen commences laying worker eggs in January the colony's goal is to produce a swarm just before the deciduous tree leaf-out and the start of the main nectar flow giving the swarm the best chance of survival. When all the goals are met, and preparation is complete, the colony will produce a swarm on a warm, sunny, afternoon. In the Piedmont of Georgia, swarming starts as dogwood trees blossom.

The colony's preparations for swarming include; increasing the worker population by many thousands for the colony and the swarm, plenty of honey for the colony, queen weight reduction by preventing egg laying, and about a dozen capped queen cells.

The swarm consists of the existing queen and about 70% of the workers. Many of the workers can make wax. Left behind in the colony, there are developing queens and a much smaller worker population. The colony will produce little excess honey after producing a swarm.

Swarm logic for honey production.

1. Use techniques to prevent swarming.
2. If a swarm is located, catch it if it is not in a dangerous location.
3. Erect swarm traps in each beeyard and other suitable locations to catch any unseen or dangerously high swarms.

Congestion does not cause swarming; species survival causes swarming.

"Both types of congestion, bee crowding and nectar congestion of the brood nest are byproducts of the process (swarm prep). Congestion is an effect, and not the cause of reproductive swarming." Walt Wright <http://beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/swarm-preperation/>

Catching a Swarm

Do not risk a fall because a swarm is not worth the risk.

Use an eight or ten frame deep super with a solid bottom board or



"Gimmie a Y..." by Brian Higgins



Anita Curry's photo from Perry, Georgia

cardboard blocking the light of a screened bottom board. They like a dark hive with only the entrance letting in light.

Fill the super with frames and foundation. One frame of drawn comb, if available, will encourage the swarm to stay. Not having enough frames and foundation will result in comb being built first in the open space creating a difficult task of removing new comb. This open area will be filled in a day or two.

If the swarm is on a branch that can be cut, trim as needed, then support the branch and carefully cut the branch. Place it on the top of the frames in the super and let them walk down into the hive. If the branch can't be cut, shake them into the super. To capture all the bees leave the hive with the cover on until sunset then move to a permanent location. The stragglers that were flying will find the entrance and walk in by sunset. The new colony will orient during the first full day, so move them prior.

There are many variations to swarms and their location. Be creative to capture the ones you can reach.

The new colony will draw out comb fast. Add supers to stay ahead of them and they make plenty of honey.



EFFORTLESS SWARM COLLECTION

By Linda Tillman

One day I drove into my carport where I had a nuc beside some old bee equipment lying on the low brick wall bordering the drive.



I had seen some bees buzzing around it, one here, one there over the past few days. But on this day, the nuc was full of bees. A swarm had moved in to establish their new home!

In one way they had made a good choice because the nuc faced east and was in a well-lit, but protected, place. In another way, it was a bad choice because the carport light was set to turn on automatically at 7 each night and stay on until 11 PM. The scout bees, out looking for a home during daylight hours, didn't get that memo.

Luckily they didn't have to experience the carport light for long because I gave the swarm to a friend.



Rick Moore's photo from Bonair, Georgia



"Wait, come back!"



Almost every bee season, I have the good luck of having a swarm move into some old equipment. Once I had taken a box off of a hive and set it on its side to allow the bees still in the old box to go home to their mama. I left it there much longer than just overnight and one day returned from work to find a swarm clinging to the side of the old box!

Now, every spring, I purposefully set up some old equipment as a hive to invite any swarm that might come along. I try hard to encourage them. I make sure the box has old comb in it, but not old wax moth damage. I have some empty frames so they can build comb to their little hearts' content. I rub swarm lure around the inner cover opening and smear some on the wood at the top of the hive entrance. I wipe a little swarm lure on the tops of some of the frames.



After hearing Paul Berry's talk at last month's GBA meeting, [I came home, mixed up some swarm lure and set up three nucs as traps in my yard.](#) He explained at GBA that he uses mostly nucs as swarm traps. There are at least five beekeepers within a block of my house in Virginia Highlands and I want to entice their swarming bees to come join my apiary.

Here's the swarm lure recipe I use:

1 square inch of beeswax melted in ¼ cup of olive oil. Put the beeswax and the olive oil in a glass measuring cup. Set this mixture in a saucepan of hot water and heat until the beeswax melts. Remove from the heat and allow it to cool a little. Put 15 - 20 drops of lemongrass essential oil in the mix and pour it into a container where it hardens to a thick, thick lotion consistency. Smear on hives as needed.

If you've been beekeeping for a year or more, you have some old equipment. Put it to use this month to invite a swarm to join you: free bees collected in an effortless way.



Swarm in Jefferson GA by J S Sanders and...



the colony now in a hive!

FIVE DAY SWARM IN EAST POINT

by Kelley Campbell

Miss Brenda called Monday, frantic about bees in the yard interfering with some work being done. The bees had fallen from a tree a few days before and had stayed on the ground. I tried to find a keeper to help, and assumed they were retrieved or flew away.

Wednesday she called again, wondering if anyone could help them. She almost sounded like they had become her pets...like she became attached to them. She put a laundry basket over them to mark the spot for those scared, and to help protect the bees from rain.



It was Thursday before I could find a willing beekeeper in the area to go get them. Dean Walker, of the Union Hill Beekeeping Group, stepped up to help, even though he was over an hour from home and all equipment he'd need. He needs to be recognized for being so resourceful. He gathered a few items at work - flight suit, a paper box, baseball cap - and bought a dollar store laundry bag for a veil, and saved Miss Brenda's bee babies.



Dean's resourcefully-made veil, and the bees gathering in the transport box.

For the next month or so, it wouldn't be a bad idea for us to all have a swarm kit in the car, or at least ready to go. We never know when we can help.

- nuc box / hive box / breathable container for the bees
- strap to keep the hive together
- screen to keep the bees inside the box
- frame of drawn comb
- veil
- sugar water in spray bottle to mist the swarm
- queen cage or clip
- clippers for branches
- step stool or foldable ladder



A SWARM OF BEES IN MAY IS WORTH A TON OF HAY.

A SWARM OF BEES IN JUNE IS WORTH A SILVER SPOON.

A SWARM OF BEES IN JULY AIN'T EVEN WORTH A FLY.



PESTICIDE KILLS- WHAT YOU CAN DO

By Gail Dean

Have you had a colony killed by pesticides in Georgia?

According to the Ga. Department of Agriculture, only four - five bee kills are reported annually – probably because beekeepers don't know how to report one. Nobody has reported a bee kill due to mosquito spraying. Are you surprised? I sure was, which led me to research and share the following information which will come in handy if you suspect or know that your bees have died due to pesticide poisoning.

What does pesticide poisoning of a honey bee colony look like?

Often when there's a die off from pesticide poisoning, it's obvious because you find a heap of dead bees on the ground. Be aware that the pile will disappear in a day or two because an (unfortunate) predator will gobble up the toxic bees, so snap a photo right away, if you can.

Often a pile of dead bees from a pesticide kill does not mean the entire colony will die. Regardless of whether or not the entire colony dies, you should report the incident. Report the incident even if you have no idea what the pesticide was or how your bees were poisoned. Imagine if three beekeepers in a two-mile radius reported bee kills on the same day. The EPA could investigate and discover that there was inappropriate pesticide spraying in that neighborhood. Your action could help the EPA to take steps to stop this from happening in the future.

How to report a honey bee kill in Georgia:

1. Call or email Nancy Hall at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. She will walk you through what is required to report in Georgia. [404-656-7371](tel:404-656-7371) nancy.hall@agr.georgia.gov
2. In addition to contacting Nancy, email (include photos if you have them) the following folks as well:

Environmental Protection Agency: beekill@epa.gov

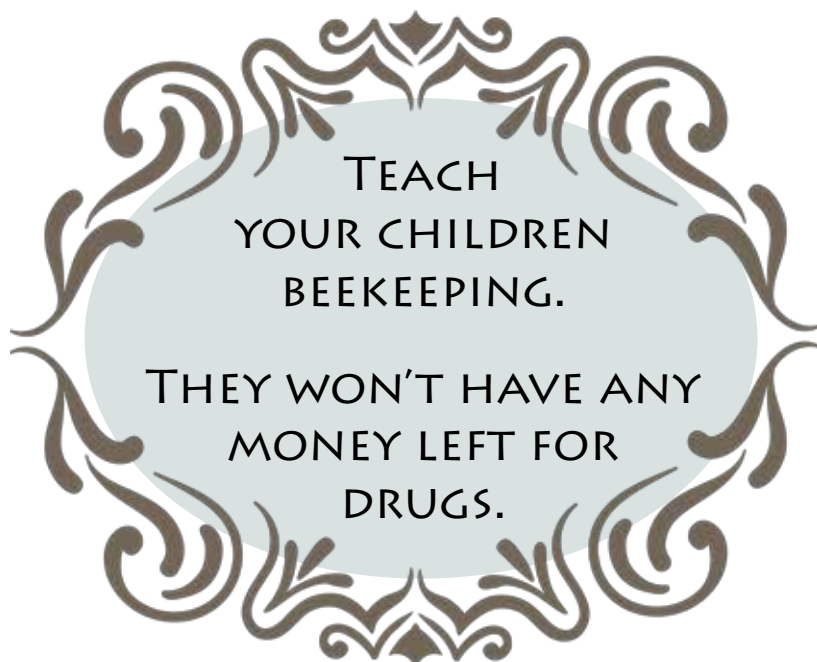
Pollinator Stewardship Council: info@pollinatorstewardship.org

GBA president: gabeepresident@gmail.com

Complete these two steps every time you see a pile of dead bees in front of your colony during spring and summer months! If you are inclined to collect samples and send them in for analysis, check out the [Honey Bee Health Coalition's Quick Guide to Reporting a Pesticide-Related Bee Kill Incident](#).



*Suspected pesticide kill
photo by Jennifer K. Leavey*





Dear Aunt Bee,

What's up with the ring of foam in my bottle of honey?

Thanks,

—New-Bee

Dear New,

Have you had a chance to check the moisture % with a refractometer? Sometimes honey that is just beginning to crystallize and fermentation will create a foam that rises to the surface when warmed and reliquefied. Instead of thinking of it as a bad thing, make creamed honey from it!

Signed,

—Aunt Bee



This is the photo of the cute little bee that won first place at the State Beekeepers meeting.

Photo by Deborah Sasser, Sasserfrass Hill Bee Farm, Augusta, GA 30907

GBA Website:

Did You Know?

By Harvest Hoffman, GBA webmaster

Did you know that if you have a bee-related business and are an active GBA member, that you can list your business information on GBA's website? Just to fill out this [form](#) and read the rules on the same page. Once your membership status has been confirmed, your listing will be added. It's that simple! Just remember to keep your membership active, or your ad will be removed and need to be resubmitted.

Are you looking for a speaker to come to your club? You can find a [list of speakers](#) on GBA's site. If you're a speaker and not listed here, please fill out this [form](#) to be added.

Do we have the latest information on your local club? Be sure to check out the [Local Clubs](#) page on GBA's site to confirm. If anything is incorrect, just follow the link on that page to go to the form.

Note to self

Always wear a beesuit and gloves when weedeating around the aggressive hives.

By Rick Moore

Certified Exam Offered in Cumming

By Kelley Campbell

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club will administer the UGA Certified Beekeeper exam on May 6 for its members. If you're not already a member, dues are \$20 for the year.

Certification information can be found [here](#). Master Beekeeper Jay Hendrix will serve as the UGA Site Supervisor for the exam.

Everything you need is provided for the written exam. For the practical exam you must provide your own veil, hive tool, gloves, if you choose to use them, and smoker.

The cost of the exam is non refundable, \$45, and the entire fee goes to the UGA, rather than to the club.

In order for you to take the exam, please provide me with an email to genjhendrix@comcast.net and include:

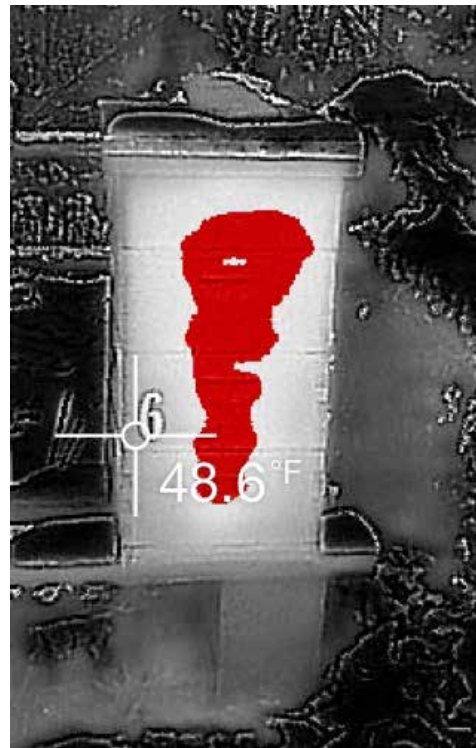
1. A clear statement certifying that you have been a beekeeper for at least one full year.
2. Your commitment that you will take the exam on May 6 and will pay the required fee of \$45.
3. Your complete name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.

No matter the results you will not regret your decision to do this, and I guarantee that you will be a better beekeeper at the end of it.

Again, congratulations on your decision, and I wish you good luck! I'm sure that you'll do well!

March 12, 2017

Photos by Gail Dean



The photo on the left is as beautiful as it is odd for the time of year! The photo above is an infrared photo using FLIR One for iPhone. Good looking cluster, don't you think?

LET THEM BEE

By Gracen Betts, student at Holy Innocent's Episcopal School

It is not news that bees are essential to our world's biodiversity and food supply. They are responsible for pollinating over a third of our food, or in other words, one in every three bites of food people eat. They are integral to the agriculture, environment, and economy as a whole. However, the bee population is at a rapid decline, specifically 40% since 1950. If this problem isn't addressed and people aren't educated on the importance of a thriving bee population, the entire food supply will suffer and other species, humans included, will experience the detrimental effects.

During their senior year at Holy Innocent's Episcopal School, the students in the **Global Citizenship Program** were challenged to create a capstone project that attempts to solve a worldwide issue. One group of students became interested specifically in bee conservation, and discovered that the most innovative and realistic way to fix this problem is by planting plants native to your area, by not using pesticides, and by buying local honey.



The big idea, called "Let Them Bee," is to create a small tag for local producers of bee products to tie on and sell with their product that provides a few basic facts about the decline of the bee population, as well as give the link to a blog with more information. Also included will be a packet of seeds to inspire others to begin growing their own gardens in order to help repopulate the bees.

By spreading awareness on importance of bee conservation, these students are educating people on how they can potentially help the situation and save the dying bee population. Hopefully some of the people in the community will feel inspired to also do something about this growing problem. As people begin to care for and love their own gardens with the seeds provided, they become contributors to a healthier planet.

The students are on the hunt for partnerships with local honey or other bee product producers. Please contact us if you are interested in partnering: bettsgr@bearsmail.org

“The major principle concerning queen rearing—that is, that worker bees can produce queens from young larvae originally in worker cells—had been discovered as early as 1568 by Michael Jacobs...”

—*Bees In America*, Tammy Horn, page 124

Tammy Horn will be a guest speaker at the GBA Fall Conference 2017

Rearing Superior Queen Classes

Learn how to rear superior queens from Jennifer Berry, (UGA Honey Bee Lab Research Professional and Owner of Honey Pond Farm) at her farm in Comer, Georgia.

The date for class 1 is April 28th & 29th and class 2 is May 19th and 20th, both from 9am to 5pm. The classes are the same both weekends.

The cost for class (both days) is \$300 per student. Class size is limited to provide the best learning environment possible. No prior experience is necessary, just a love for bees.



Classes include Inside lectures detailing how to rear superior queens, hands on grafting instruction, hands on apiary work (setting up grafting colonies, starter/finishers, mating nucs), selecting for queen and drone mother colonies, and finding and marking queens.

Catered lunches, along with morning and afternoon beverages/snacks, will be provided both days by Athens Chef, Jose. There will also be a wine and cheese social (Q & A) on Friday after the class.

For more information please visit her website at www.honeypondfarm.com or email her at jennifer@honeypondfarm.com

Honey Pond Farm is a small, honey bee operation located outside Athens, Georgia, which specializes in raising queens and 5 frame nucleus colonies (nucs).



Alberta Agriculture has developed an app for “Bee Health”. Phase I of the “Bee Health” app is released. It focuses on bee disease symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options. It is developed for iOS and Android platforms. It can be downloaded to iPhone, Samsungphone family and iPad. To download to iPad, you need to use the iPhone only option for down loading. We are currently working on the second phase that includes diagnoses of diseases based on symptoms, but also includes an interactive feature to communicate with Alberta registered beekeepers. It will facilitate bee disease diagnostics and communication to provide recommendations on line. Pictures can be emailed to Alberta apiculture staff for assistance in diagnoses. Broadcasting warnings of pest outbreaks will also be included. All reports and findings will be recorded in the provincial bee pest surveillance database.

Please help yourself and download the app. To find the app, search App Store or Google Play store for “bee health” or follow this link: <http://www.programs.alberta.ca/17713.aspx#ad-image-0>

The app is free.

If you have any comments please contact medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca

A special day for a special beekeeper

By Rick Moore

Jesse McCurdy is a fixture in Middle Georgia beekeeping. There is no one within 100 miles involved in beekeeping who does not know, and who has not been mentored by Jesse.

Over his 70+ years in beekeeping, Jesse has learned a thing or two and taught much to the members at Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn. Jesse might say the hardest part of teaching new-bees is they don't listen. How many times he has told me "I told you..."

In the late 1990s, Dr Keith Delaplane of the UGA Bee Lab, painted a picture of Jesse in the mountains with his customized bee trailer. The American Beekeeping Federation ran that picture as the cover of their magazine that year. The picture has hung on the hallowed wall of the Bee Lab for many years, until recently.

At our club meeting, we held a surprise birthday party for now 85 years young Jesse McCurdy. It was hard to keep a secret among 80 members and not let it

As I spoke about the painting, we uncovered the original and presented it to Jesse. He was speechless.

slip to either Jesse or his wife Hazel, but this secret was too good to let loose. There was a white t-shirt with bees on it that Jesse favors and cannot find to buy another. We were able to use a photo of Jesse in that shirt, made shirts for over 50 party attendees who wore it to the party, and surprised Jesse and Hazel when they made their entrance into the Perry Arts Center, with a standing ovation. 50+ people all wearing the white shirt with bees to honor a man who has taught us all a lot more than just beekeeping.

With bee balloons, yellow and black themed utensils and a cake with bees on it, the party began. We had asked Jesse to bring the tattered copy of the ABF cover showing his picture which he has shown many times over the years, but Hazel brought a framed copy instead. We spoke of Jesse and the honor Dr Delaplane bestowed on him by making the painting and ABF using it for the cover. Hazel remarked she had tried to get that painting from Dr. Delaplane many times over the years. As I spoke about the painting, we uncovered the original painting and presented it to Jesse. He was speechless.

Through the cooperation and assistance of Dr Delaplane, our club had given Jesse a token of appreciation for all he has done and is doing for our club members, beekeepers in general, and especially honey bees. Members signed a huge matted picture of Jesse and his blackberry bushes as a Happy Birthday card.

It was our pleasure to give back to a man who has given so much to so many.



MARY'S MUSINGS: MARCH MADNESS

by Mary Cahill-Roberts, Master Beekeeper and GBA Past President

It is the season of hope and new beginnings as March 21st is the first official day of Spring (interesting that it falls a little over 6 weeks after February 2). For beekeepers, there is the promise of new nucs, packages, hives, splits, swarms. It is the busiest and most fun time of the season for bee management. This is a critical time for the honeybees. There might be a late frost, causing a freeze in the hive without much late winter stores to get them through the one or two nights of below 32 degree weather. The queen is trying to beef up her workers and there are a lot of young in the hive. There is a little nectar coming in, but all of this is going towards the babies. They are not putting much up and do not have reserves. Bee management and bee biology are two essentials to know at this time of the year.

I check my hives and make sure they have honey in case of the event that we had in Atlanta on March 13-17, 2017. We had below 32 degree weather for most of the nights with highs of 50 during the days. My bees fly when it is 50 so I put out 2 gallons of syrup to supplement them. But the critical time for me was before March 6-13, to watch the weather and, check the hives for any honey stores. I keep back about 10-12 frames of honey all year to put in my lighter hives or put in any swarms I catch. These 10 frames are kind of my insurance policy to help out my bees when I am able to get into the hives in late February to early March. If they need a frame or two I pop it in. I make sure that there are enough bees to cover the brood nest and put the frames near this area in case of freeze. If I don't need the frames I might use them in a split. Guess what- honey keeps. I can use them in the fall or the following year. I have not had any honey go bad yet (heheheh).

My take away here is learn the biology of the honeybee. If you know the queen is laying and they are feeding the bees a pound of pollen and honey every day but are only bringing in a pound of pollen and honey every day then you have to make sure they have a store in case of emergency. Know how long each bee takes to bring to maturity. Know how long each stage is. Know the temperature needed for the queen. Understand why they won't move two inches to get to that frame of honey. Right now it might be too late for March but April is can be unpredictable, swarms will happen and they will need care also. Make sure they have enough food for any weather. When snow is predicted do you go to the store to buy milk and eggs?

CLASSIFIED AD

SPRING NUCS FOR SALE \$160

Available for pick up in Comer,
Georgia April 15th -16th from
8am to 10am



Contact Jennifer Berry to order:
jbee@uga.edu



To purchase a classified ad, go to <https://gabeekkeeping.wufoo.com/forms/spilling-the-honey-ad-application/>

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FALL HONEY SHOW

By Brutz English

The annual GBA Fall Conference and Honey Show will be here before you know it. This year's Honey Show is going to be held on Friday, October 6, 2017, at the GBA Fall Conference in Griffin, Georgia. The Honey Show is one of the GBA's two competitive events each year. The GBA Honey Show is the showcase for all things honey and beeswax. The traditional classes for the Honey Show are the three extracted honey classes, chunk honey, section comb honey, creamed honey, black jar, beeswax block, molded candles, and two classes of tapered candles. However, this year we are excited to announce we are adding three new competitive classes to the Honey Show!

The first addition is the "Full Frame" of drawn, capped honey. This is the class to show off the most evenly, fully drawn, prettiest frame of capped honey your bees produced this year. The rules for this class are as follows: An entry of full frame comb honey is one (1) frame of capped honey. Frames suitable for extraction must be shown in protective casing without lacing or edging and both sides of the comb should be visible. Frames must be 100% capped. Judging: Full frame comb honey entries are not judged for flavor, unless fermentation is apparent. Judging criteria are uniformity of appearance and color (including the honey in the comb), cleanliness, absence of uncapped or leaking cells, no "wet" cell appearance, freedom from granulation and pollen, and symmetry throughout the frame. Total weight of the entire entry may be used as a tiebreaker.



The second new class is the "Novice" class. We are adding this class to give people with less experience in honey shows an opportunity to compete on a more even playing field. This class is for people who want to compete, but may not quite feel ready to put together three competitive jars. The defining criterion of the Novice class is that it is limited to entries from individuals who have never previously won a blue ribbon in a honey show. The rules for this class are as follows: A 1 lb. jar of extracted honey. *Open only to exhibitors who have never won first prize at any honey show.* Judging criteria is the same as that for extracted honey (classes H2-H4).



The final addition to this year's GBA Honey Show is the "Commercial" class. The addition of this class will give our commercial beekeepers and honey producers a forum to showcase their packaging and marketing. The rules for this class are as follows: An entry consists of six identical jars. The six jar commercial class includes exhibitors' own labels. Labels should be legal within the laws of Georgia; only one I.D. label is required per entry (six jars). Tamper-proof seals are allowable. Judging: Criteria are cleanliness of the jar and lid. Correct fill level; uniformity of the six jars that comprise the entry; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; and design and content of the label.

We believe these additions will create even more interest in the Honey Show, and will open the Honey Show up to even more of our members. Over the past few years we have done a great deal to standardize rules, train judges and other show officials, and ensure the fairness and integrity of our competitive shows. Not to mention we have bumped the prize money up considerably, with First Place prize ribbons now being awarded along with a \$100.00 check, and Best in Show paying an additional \$250.00! The 2017 Honey Show is going to be a lot of fun and excitement, and we look forward to seeing you there! You can check out the full Honey Show rules on the GBA website at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Documents/fallhoneyshow.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding the Honey Show, please feel free to email me at brutzenglish@gmail.com.

Club News

The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County had a wonderful turnout of 27 attendees for our Bee School this month. It was exciting to see the interest from the new beekeepers and the really relevant questions they asked. The highlight of the event was watching them observe moving bees from a Nuc box to a Deep. Luckily only the instructor was stung J! We had many door prizes donated by vendors and the grand prize of a starter kit, smoker, and veil was won by Kevin Smith a beginner beekeeper.

The Beekeepers of Gilmer County have been invited to participate in a project for Carters Lake Visitors Center.

We are assisting the US Army Corps of Engineers, to install 3 hives. Their plan is to run video to the monitors inside the center. Equipment has been ordered and this project should be actively running within a month.

Effingham Beekeepers

It's with joy and satisfaction that I report to the GBA our club's first and very successful Beekeeping 101 course held on Saturday March 4, 2017. The participation was beyond our expectations with a low advertising budget and was well worth the time spent! There were 30 or so students and 15 club participants doing the teaching and power point presentations. As the club president I was very pleased with all that was accomplished! We had a fantastic cookout and fun time with a super good raffle with many great prizes including a winner of a new hive and winner of a new colony of bees to come in April. The cooperation and the enthusiasm of the club members and the the new and aspiring beekeepers made for a great beekeeping day in Effingham County! Special thanks to Josh Calvert and his wife Stephanie for coordinating the event!
-Club President, Robert L Quarterman.

Broadus Williams entertained and informed the **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers** at the March meeting about queen rearing. His powerpoint presentation was drawn from his personal experiences and classes on the different methods of raising queens. Why are we not all raising our own queens?



Broadus Williams entertains and informs

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their annual Beekeeping:101 class on March 25th at the Perry United Methodist Church. The students learned from the basics to advanced beekeeping and met in the afternoon in the apiary to open hives. For many people this was the first time they had ever seen inside a hive.

The Master Gardeners of Central Ga., invited The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers to participate in the Spring Plant Sale, March 23,24,25 at the Macon State Farmers Market.

Our members also participated in the Bleckley County Middle School's annual Career Carnival 2017. This event was very informal and relaxed. The 6-8th grade students (enrollment around 500) visited in small groups and were encouraged to ask questions.

Our April 18 meeting will feature our own Panel of Experts answering all your beekeeping questions.



The Lake Country Beekeepers met on Monday, March 20th in Sparta GA. More than 50 of our members attended and learned from Bill Owens of Georgia Bee Removal about making hive splits. Mr. Owens is well known throughout the GBA community. He operates a bee removal business near Monroe and is the only Certified Master Craftsman Beekeeper in Georgia. His recommendations for making splits are to: think out to the next season with your hives, understand that your bees will swarm which splitting can help prevent an inevitable loss, and learn to produce your own queens either by grafting or allowing the hive to raise their own from the existing brood. Also always have a goal when looking inside your hives. Thanks Mr. Owens for sharing your time and insights with other beekeepers. The next LCBA event is our monthly meeting on Monday, April 17th. Look for information on Lake County Beekeepers Association Facebook.

Tri County Beekeepers had a successful Fundamentals of Beekeeping course.

Our little club has grown by leaps and bounds since we started the ambitious endeavor of running a short course. Our president Bobby Chaisson, Vice President Wade Dale, and Secretary June Dale have served tirelessly to make sure it was a success. We grew our club, raised money, and had thoughtful bee discussions as well. We encourage every club, regardless of size, to put on some kind of short course. People


are thirsty for bee knowledge. Let's oblige them! -Meghan Hill, Treasurer

The Forsyth Beekeepers will present the *Hands on in the Hives* bee school on April 22, 2017.

This is day two of a two-day school, but new comers and those who did not attend day one are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will begin class by learning about different options for protective gear, and lighting a smoker. We'll learn to capture a swarm, and the students will be paired with certified beekeeper mentors for a complete hive inspection. You will learn to identify workers, drones, capped honey, all stages of brood, etc. Signs of disorders and diseases will be pointed out.

Location: Bill Dunn's Residence

If you're only attending day 2, it's \$10 for members, \$30 for non-members.



SAT. APRIL 8
HONEY
BEE
HIVE
INSPECTION

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association
is offering new beekeepers and those who want to become beekeepers an opportunity to get into honey bee hives at the elbow of experienced keepers. If interested, just show up on April 8th at 10a.m. and we'll be informally going through the hives at Dirty Dog Farm. If you've always wanted to see what those bees are doing in that box, now is your chance.

Minimum clothing required: Closed Toe Shoes - Light Colored & Loose Long Pants and Long Sleeved Shirt - Beekeeper Veil (some are available for loan)-Beekeeper Jackets or Suits if you have them.

Participants are required to sign a release form.

There is no charge but a donation to the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers club is greatly appreciated.


Helps answer the question "What Am I Looking At?"

See a variety of hive styles including Top Bar, Long Lang & Ware

Questions answered on the spot

Hear from new and "seasoned" beekeepers

Hang out with **Beeks**



DIRTY DOG FARM
429 Frank Kelley Rd.
Canon, GA. 30520
404-219-7200
kathleenbourn@gmail.com
April 8th 2017 10am



April Meetings

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Virginia Webb	Mon, April 10, 7:00pm	1561 S. Main	Ellijay, Ga
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Bill Dunn: Queen Maladies	Tue, April 11, 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church Dacula Module B	Dacula, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Keith Fielder: Honey Bee Nutrition	Thurs, April 27, 630pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Panel of experts answering all your bee questions	Tues, April 18, 7pm	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd	Perry, GA
Lake County Beekeepers Association	Bruce Morgan, Morgan Apiaries : Honey Extraction -	Mon, April 17, 6:30 pm	UGA Extension Building 12534 Augusta HWY	Sparta, GA
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association	Bobby Chaisson: Swarm Catching and Hive Removals	Wed, April 12, 7-9pm	Mershon Hall, at Atlanta Botanical Garden	Piedmont Ave. in Atlanta
Tri-County	Will Dix:keeping the beekeeper healthy in the bee yard	Mon, April 10, 7pm	Gillsville City Park	Gillsville Ga

Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

The GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer.

To see the list, [click here](#)



This is one of the largest natural queen cells I have ever seen in 30 years of beekeeping !

-By Brian Higgins



MAY 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The license plate design contest is underway! You can find the [guidelines for submission here](#). The rules for entering the contest [are here](#). We are so excited about the license plate program and are looking forward to seeing everyone's entries. Do submit and join in the fun. Prizes range from \$250 to the winner to \$100 for third place.

In another helpful development, GBA has contracted to use a conference phone line. We have now used the line for two phone GBA board meetings and the Buzz Fund committee has used the line for their conference meetings. Having access to this conference phone line will help GBA in many ways since members of committees and of the board are located all across the state.

Our first conference call board meeting was to approve the license plate project. Then the GBA board met by phone and voted to move some funds from the Junior Beekeeping Fund to the Buzz Fund. Junior beekeeping funds can be requested by local clubs on an annual basis. A club can request no more than \$200 to support their effort to have a junior beekeeping program. We get only a few requests a year and at \$200 per request, our money in that fund goes a long way. The Buzz Fund is for research and bee projects. Buzz Fund grants are usually for several thousand dollars.

The Buzz Fund states that local grants from the Buzz Fund are: "to give individuals, institutions, and organizations the opportunity to make a larger positive impact in their geographical area." We have had three grant requests for use of Buzz fund monies since the beginning of 2017 and are thrilled that there is so much interest. In order to make the funds available to support several projects, we can't always fully fund these grant requests but have given as much as the Buzz Fund committee deemed appropriate.

The first grant this year went to Tim Doherty of [Doc's Healing Hives and Honey Foundation](#). He is managing a program to help veterans cope with PTSD and other war consequences through learning to keep bees. The second grant this year went to Gloria Huddleston and Clint Ready of [Middle Georgia State University](#). They requested money to repurpose land around the university as a pollinator garden. The land was previously used as a pulp wood factory and is covered with construction pads. They will be building raised bed gardens. Their students in beekeeping have been attendees at recent GBA meetings. The third grant request is still under consideration by the committee.

The Buzz Fund is maintained by donations. Individuals can donate to the Buzz Fund. Also at the fall GBA meeting, clubs generally bring donations to contribute to the Buzz Fund. In your club, it's not too early to be talking about how much money your club might like to donate to the fund that allows GBA to support people's research and bee projects.

It's a wonderful year to be president of GBA. I'm enjoying seeing so many of you at your local clubs (by the end of May, I will have visited twelve GBA clubs). And I look forward to our fall meeting where Randy Oliver will be our featured speaker.

Warmly,

Linda Tillman
GBA President

OOPS in the APIARY



by James Moudry

In the May of 2016 bee season, I was out equalizing my hives in one of my apiaries just like I always do. This was my third year as an active beekeeper and I had 3 apiaries to maintain with the total of 32 hives.

The day before I went out and bought 100 wood frames and foundation and put that in the back of my truck along with a mixture of deeps, mediums and shallow honey supers that I intended to add to the hives that needed them. Like always I arrived at my first apiary and took out my smoker and bee suit from the back of my truck and lit it and then suited up. I did not unload all the hardware I had bought the day before.

This particular apiary is located on a large wooded lot with quite a few pastures, so the deer are frequent and you always hear and see them, while you're working. So you kind of get to where you ignore it. Well I was working on about my third or fourth hive when I kept hearing this popping noise and I just figured the deer were running through, but it kept on. I finally looked up and what I saw next made my heart just sink. My rear of my truck had caught fire, the grass was burning and all the hardware I had purchased the day before.

I dropped what I was doing and jumped into the back of the truck to try and put it out but didn't have any luck. The camper shell and spray on bedliner were burning too fast for me to keep up with, along with all the frames and honey supers.

I lost all the hardware and a 2007 GMC Duramax Diesel truck that I had worked so very hard for and had purchased brand new. Total loss that day was about \$29,000, in less than 20 minutes. Needless to say I don't know what caused the fire but I have changed my smoker lighting habits. I do not light my smoker near my vehicle any longer and I carry a metal bucket for it to sit in while not in use or sitting in the apiary.



by Joe Conti

Earlier this year I was checking hives and decided to wear one of those lightweight bee jackets with the floppy veil. Well, as you can see, the floppy veil didn't work so well, as a few bees had landed on it while it was pressed against my lip, and Voila! At least 1 bee (maybe 2) took advantage of the situation that my lower lip presented to them!

THE BEEKEEPER'S CAR AND THE PARKING ATTENDANT

A Bee Adventure by Linda Tillman

A friend of mine and I eat lunch every other Wednesday. One day in May last year, we met at a restaurant where you have to valet park. We had a delicious lunch and at the end of lunch, we walked down to the valet stand and each handed the attendant our claim tickets.

Moments later David's car arrived; he got in it and rode away. The people behind me got their car; the people standing in back of them got their car. Mine had yet to appear.

Finally my car arrived from the parking deck. The attendant was driving very, very slowly. When he got to the valet stand, he jumped out of the car, and two bees flew out with him.

"M'am," he said, "Did you know there are bees in your car?!"

I imagine that he arrived to get my car and saw bees on the driver's side window. He waited and waited to get in, hoping they would move, but when they didn't, he screwed his courage to the sticking place and finally got in anyway. Of course, he arrived with my car and without any stings, but he probably felt insecure for the whole fifty feet of the drive!

I told him that I was a beekeeper and that there are almost always bees in my car at this time of year. I had collected a swarm the day before and had driven it across town in my car. He and the other attendants, listening in, looked shocked, and then they all laughed.

And I doubled my usual tip!

Photo Gallery



Found these on a recent swarm call. Ah, no thank you...



Rick Moore asks "Have you ever seen a cup this thick?"



Jarrod Murphy learned a lesson about beespace

BEE PACKAGE INSTALLATION - THE FRIENDLY WAY

By Bob Grant

Mountain Beekeepers Association

I have been keeping bees since 2006. Over the years, I have seen many "professional marketing" videos, by package bees purveyors on installing a three-pound package of bees into hives. These videos show the beekeeper opening the package, removing the syrup can and queen cage followed by dumping the bees into a hive. The bees cooperate by falling easily into the hive body. In my experience this doesn't happen very often. Depending on the temperature, the bees fall in clumps (colder temps) or need to be shaken roughly out of the box. This usually involves slapping the box which results in bees falling everywhere. In any event the bees are rudely introduced to their new home. They aren't happy and it's a heck of a way to introduce yourself to your new charges. While most of the bees survive this handling technique, some are injured and killed in the process.

There is another problem with this process, particularly in colder climates. The bees, once installed, spend several days up to a week, wandering around the empty frames of foundation. My guess is they are confused about what to do next which leads to a slow build out of the frames. Under the same time and conditions, I have seen bees installed in a NUC box quickly acclimating to their new environment and beginning their work in earnest.

There has to be a better way!

About two years ago I started experimenting with different methods of installation which would be gentler to the bees. I've settled on the following method, which involves creating a NUC type environment in a standard ten-frame hive body. This will work with an eight-frame hive body as well.

The Gentle Process

1. Remove five frames from a ten-frame hive (four from an eight-frame hive.)
2. Open the bees in the usual manner:
 - Remove the wood lid and syrup can along with the queen cage, and
 - Remove the staple which secures the queen cage strap to the box.
3. Gently shake the bees off the queen cage and inspect the queen.
4. Remove the cork from the candy end of the queen cage.
5. Place the queen cage into the hive body:
 - First, between the frames with the candy side up, and
 - Second, position the screen side facing into the space between the two frames at a slightly up angle so you can see into the cage.
6. Gently shake some of the bee onto the top of the five frames (the amount doesn't matter) and avoid dropping bees into the adjacent frameless space.
7. Place the box with the remaining boxed bees, opening face-up, in the adjacent space to the frames inside the box. Then close the hive.
8. Install a local feeder:
 - Use a quart jar fitted to a heavy transport cover or the feeder of your choice
 - An entrance feeder will work, but watch for robbing in larger apiaries.
9. Return to the hive(s) to check on the release of the queen in two to three days. By that time, all the bees will usually be on the frames and working to build their new home.
 - Either remove the empty queen cage or evaluate the need for a manual release.
 - Tighten up the frame spacing and add a sixth frame if it fits.

10. Take the package box and turn it upside down with the open side touching the bottom. Leave it in the hive until the bees build out most of the frames (at least four) and the queen is laying well. In the mountains with widely varying diurnal temperatures, this is two to three weeks.

Remove the package box once the bees have become a functioning hive and replace the additional five frames. Continue the feeding process until the beginning of the flow.

When adding the final frames, it's generally best to add frames on either side of the bee build out. Additionally, I move the outer honey frames to either end of the box to promote faster buildout. If I have a stock of good empty built-out frames, I use them to hasten the build-up.

Additionally I maintain a field feeder to encourage the bees to find food outside of the hive.

Benefits of this process:

- Gentler on the bees and beekeeper
- Promotes faster build-out of the foundation
- Keeps bees confined
- Permits observation of the syrup consumption by hive
- Requires beekeeper to remain attentive during the build-up

I have a short video doing this on my Facebook page (Robert Grant).



SWARMS!



Bruce Hunter from Rome
"This swarm made me laugh - the queen landed on an empty wire bird feeder and everyone else piled on in."



Anita Curry took this easy swarm near Henderson, GA



Swarm caught by Brandon Tai from Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Miss Georgia Contestant

Darlyn Davis, a member of the Heart of Georgia Beekeeping Association, recently spoke at a 5th Grade Girl Scout Troup meeting at Kings Chapel Elementary School in Perry, Georgia. She presented a PREZI called Mr. Honeybee that gave an overview about beekeeping, basic honeybee anatomy, beekeeping tools, and the importance of honeybees to the ecosystem.

After her presentation, the girl scouts tried honey straws, and planted wildflowers in pots they could take home.

Darlyn Davis will be competing in the Miss Georgia Pageant in June as Miss Flint River. Pageantry has given Darlyn an avenue to continually promote and educate others about the environmental advantages of beekeeping.

Darlyn is a resident of Kathleen, Georgia, and is a sophomore at Georgia College & State University. She was recently awarded the DAR National Conservation Award for her community work and education of youth on the conservation of honeybees.



**I AM FASCINATED BY THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN BEES.
I AM FASCINATED BY THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN BEEKEEPERS.
—MARLA SPIVAK**





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Hilary Kearney is a full time beekeeper in San Diego, California. Her company *Girl Next Door Honey* offers beekeeping classes locally and online. Her blog *Beekeeping Like a Girl* is an educational resource for beekeepers all over the world. www.girlnextdoorhoney.com

www.beekeepinglikeagirl.com

By Hilary Kearney

The drama surrounding the Flow Hive is unending and riddled with misinformation. Beekeepers are infamous for our diverse and contrasting opinions, but the controversy over the Flow Hive is so extreme that it cannot even be mentioned without sparking a civil war among beekeepers. So, is the Flow Hive what its opponents claim it to be: an evil invention designed to enslave bees for honey? Read on to get my take.

Before I go any further, I want to be up front about my experiences with beekeeping and the Flow Hive because I have noticed many of the articles written on this subject have been written by people who are either new to beekeeping or people who have never used the Flow Hive. I have been keeping between 20 and 80 hives for the past seven years. When the news of the Flow Hive invention first broke, I was a skeptic, like many others. I decided to keep an open mind, mostly for the sake of my current and future students. I teach hundreds of new beekeepers each year, many of which have Flow Hives. In the fall of 2015, the company sent me a complete Flow Hive kit and an additional Flow Super at no cost. I put them to use in the spring, but had not harvested honey until just last week. During the past year, I have organized two local beekeeping meetings with presentations by the inventors, participated in their "Meet the Beekeeper" film series and was hired to write several educational articles for the Flow Hive blog. I am not being paid to write this article.

Addressing Criticisms

The majority of the complaints I have heard about the Flow Hive are not about the invention, but about new beekeepers who might use it. For good or bad, the Flow Hive inspired a wave of new beekeepers and with that comes a lot of ignorance and mistakes. The new Flow Hive beekeepers are similar to all new beekeepers. They make mistakes, they lose hives and then they either learn from it or they quit beekeeping altogether. For experienced beekeepers, this process is sometimes hard to watch. It takes incredible patience to accept and mentor new beekeepers. So, when the Flow Hive was released and brought with it a boom of new and naive beekeeping hopefuls it's no wonder it overwhelmed so many of the experienced beekeepers. We were flooded with constant questions and many of those questions were based on misconceptions about what beekeeping involves. The frustration among beekeepers was paramount and it coalesced into a stubborn hatred of anything Flow Hive. Just take a look at the articles that have come out against it. In nearly all of them the writer's irritation is clear and they openly complain about the number of inquiries they have had about the hive. I suspect this colored their opinions and this is one reason I waited over a year to share mine.

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? Lazy Beekeepers

The most common argument I hear against the Flow Hive is that it creates or promotes "lazy beekeeping" practices. People who get a hive don't bother to learn much about what they are doing and never perform inspections, but still may rob honey when they feel like it.

As someone who has been teaching a high volume of new beekeepers for the past five years, I have found that these types of beekeepers existed before the Flow Hive and they will continue to exist afterwards. The Flow Hive does make it easier for them to rob honey without understanding what they are doing, but I find that these kinds of beekeepers will harvest honey when they should not no matter what style hive they use. I also think it is rare that this type of beekeeper will progress far enough with a colony to the point where they will fill a Flow Hive. Likely the colony will die before it ever fills a honey or Flow super. Another point of contention with Flow Hive opponents is that these unmanaged hives will sicken the hives of responsible beekeepers nearby. Again, I would like to point out that this is a complaint about the beekeeper and not the Flow Hive.



Many blame the original teaser video for attracting so many potential lazy beekeepers. They complain that it was deliberately misleading. In response to this, I would ask that the reader imagine themselves in the shoes of the inventors for a moment. You and your dad are beekeepers and you've spent 10 years working on this invention and you are ready to go live with it, but you don't want to release too many details about how it works for fear of copycats. You have a family member make a catchy promotional video that shows off your invention. You have no idea that this video will go viral and become so popular with the public. You are just trying to get the attention of other beekeepers like you. Can you really blame them for the response they got? I don't think I would have done differently if I had been in their place. They were trying to appeal to existing beekeepers. I do not judge them for their initial release video, but instead I look at what they have done since and I am impressed with how they responded to the criticism they received. They didn't have to do anything to address it. They were already wildly popular, having broken crowd funding records nearly immediately. But they went the extra mile because at the end of the day they are not some soulless corporation. They are a beekeeping family that cares about bees and other beekeepers. They have created a wealth of educational resources for new beekeepers for free: a blog, videos, and a forum. What more do people want?

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? Honey Profiteering Mentality

Another worry from the beekeeping community is that the Flow design promotes a style of beekeeping that is fixated on profits and on honey. This argument actually makes me laugh. I have yet to meet someone with this mentality who purchased a Flow Hive. I always asking my Introduction to Beekeeping students why they came to class. Before the bee crisis was making big headlines, I used to get business-minded people in the class every once in a while, declaring their goals of starting a honey business. None of these people have gone on to actually do it. Probably because they quickly realized how challenging beekeeping is and how little profit honey actually brings.

The people I have met with Flow Hives have been of two types. Either they don't want to learn anything at all and they want to hire me to manage their hives for them or they are just like every other new beekeeper. Nervous, determined, excited, caring, confused and in need of guidance. Some of them quit, but those who stick with it do it for a love of bees. When they harvest their honey, they don't sell it! They give it away to friends and family. Do you really think someone with the kind of disposable income that affords a Flow Hive needs to sell their honey?

Weakening the Connection

Some beekeepers worry that the Flow Hive interrupts the bond between a beekeeper and their bees. That the connection us beekeepers cherish will be lost. This is another one of the reasons why I waited for over a year to write this article. I wanted to consider these points and take my time working my Flow Hives before I made any claims. I can truly say that the Flow Hive has done nothing to take away from this element of beekeeping. I think it is based on the false idea that Flow Hive beekeepers do not have to perform hive inspections. They do. The only thing that requires less interaction between beekeeper and bees is the process of harvesting honey, something that is done only a couple of times a year.

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? Solving a Non-Existent Problem

Some beekeepers dismiss the praise the Flow Hive has received by stating that it solves a problem none of us really have. Many beekeepers are happy with the traditional methods for harvesting honey. I think that's great, but what is true for one beekeeper is not true for everyone. I would agree that there are traditional ways of harvesting honey that are not so bad, but I still save tons of time when I harvest with a Flow Hive. All of my apiaries are out-yards so even if I use a trap out board I have to make several trips: one to put the board on and another to come pick up the super. Then I usually have to make another trip out to put the "stickies" (now empty combs) back on the hive. Plus, I still have to haul the heavy super around, extract the honey, and clean everything up. I have some rooftop hives that I would love to have Flow supers on so I could avoid the dangerous and tricky business of carrying honey laden supers down a ladder. My point is that some people do not feel that the investment of a Flow Hive is worth the work it saves for honey harvests and some people do feel it's worth it, but neither person is wrong.



The Price

I can see how the price of The Flow Hive would stop some people from purchasing it, but I don't think this is a valid argument against it. If you don't think it's worth the price, don't buy it. Since starting my own business, I have learned that products have many hidden costs. We have no idea what it takes to produce a Flow Hive especially when you look beyond just the manufacturing costs. They have to employ a team of people who deal with questions, orders, and shipping. Not to mention the time the inventors put into creating the Flow Hive. They worked on it for 10 years! Who are we to tell them what to charge? And if they are millionaires now, why are we not celebrating the fact that a beekeeper has had success? Why do beekeepers judge and ridicule each other when they try to charge for their skills? I have been attacked for charging for nearly all of the services I offer: mentorships, classes, hive tours, kid's presentations, bee removal. I am proud to be a beekeeper and I think it's high time we start valuing our skill set and trade. We should support each other and celebrate each other's successes.



Robbing

If you're worried that honey pouring out of your hive from a spigot will cause robbing, I don't blame you. However, it's really such a simple fix that it isn't even worth talking about. See photo to the left.

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? The Plastic

Out of all the complaints against the Flow Hive the only one that I feel is valid is its use of plastic combs. I prefer to let my bees build natural combs and don't use foundations in my hives. I am a huge advocate of this practice because I think natural comb plays a role in honey bee health. Although not all of it has scientific evidence, reasons for shunning plastics/foundations in the hive include natural cell size, chemical leaching, off-gassing and communication disruptions. In addition to all that, I have observed that bees prefer natural comb to foundation and this preference is reason enough for me to keep foundation and plastic out of my hives. I know that many of the beekeepers who agree with me on this point are confused and even angry with me for not condemning the Flow Hive. So, I will do my best to explain myself.

Misconceptions

Many people mistakenly believe that the Flow Hive forces bees to live in a hive that contains only plastic combs. This is not the case. There is a single super of plastic combs and the rest of the hive can be natural comb or foundation, whatever the beekeeper chooses. I would argue that using a Flow super isn't that much different from using foundation. It may even be preferable because Flow Hive encourages beekeepers to allow for natural combs (no foundations) in the brood boxes.

Allowances & Trade-offs

I am of the opinion that we are all hypocrites. Every good thing we try to do has a consequence. In beekeeping, especially there are lots of trade-offs. Personally, I try to maintain a "do what works for you" philosophy. If someone is having success with a certain beekeeping practice, even if I would not personally do it, I don't feel the need to lecture them.

On the subject of potential negative impacts of using plastic Flow Frames in a hive... I don't think we have enough data to make any claims and I have not seen any anecdotal evidence to suggest Flow Frames are harming bees. It would be different if the bees were forced to lay their brood in plastic combs, but that is not the case. I just don't think a single super of plastic comb is that big of a deal and one could argue that there are some benefits for both bees and beekeepers.

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? Benefits

For the beekeeper, the benefits are that you will save time and effort when you harvest honey. That's it. You still have to inspect your hives, deal with mites, monitor for diseases, add supers, make splits, requeen, lift heavy boxes, lose colonies to pesticides etc.

I think it's curious that so many new beekeepers latched onto the Flow Hive under the misguided impression that it would make beekeeping more accessible to them. It's a pretty box with a clever mechanism

inside, but it can't give you power over your bees or nature. It will only ease the burden of labor involved in harvesting honey. New beekeepers have never experienced that before so most of them enjoy that process. It's still novel! It seems like experienced beekeepers would be the ones to get the most excited about this invention, but the majority of them seem to have shunned it.

When I did my first Flow Hive harvest it really was like magic. It's so wonderfully easy to turn the key and drain the honey right into a bucket. I was giddy! Because I run my own beekeeping business almost entirely by myself, time is insanely precious to me. Especially in spring. The time and effort the Flow Hive could save me if I were able to harvest this way on all my hives would be invaluable.

For the Bees

After seeing it in action, I think there is no way to dispute that the Flow Hive's method of honey harvesting is less invasive for the bees. We could tell through the window that the frames were capped and there was no need to open the hive at all for the harvest. Other methods for harvesting honey not only involve opening the hive, but physically removing the bees from each frame. People use brushes, leaf blowers, strong smells and smoke to drive bees off the honey. It's never a fun process. The trap-out board is the least invasive traditional method, but even with that you have to lift the super and put the board on. A process that usually crushes at least some bees.

IS THE FLOW HIVE BAD FOR BEES? Drawbacks

The practical drawbacks of the Flow Hive are similar to using plastic foundation. The bees sometimes will not accept the plastic combs until they have been coated with beeswax. It is an easy enough fix. Simply brush or rub some wax on the face of your Flow frames.

Another similarity to using plastic foundation is that some hives seem reluctant to fill Flow frames when there isn't a strong nectar flow. San Diego's climate has fickle nectar flows and I have trouble getting bees to make and cap honey at some of my apiaries, especially during drought years. This year we received above average rainfall and the bees have been more willing to fill the Flow super.

Conclusion

Like everything in beekeeping, the Flow Hive has pros and cons. It is a trade-off. If you choose to use it you will sacrifice one super of natural comb in exchange for a less invasive and time-consuming honey harvest. Like everything in beekeeping, you will have unique challenges because of your particular situation and climate. You might decide that these challenges outweigh the benefits of using a Flow Hive and find that it doesn't work for you. Another beekeeper may find the opposite result. Like everything in beekeeping some people will disagree with you. Some of them will have interesting, challenging thoughts that change your perspective and others will just be a-holes. Just remember, in the end it's your journey.



*The keeping of bees is like the
direction of sunbeams.*

-Henry David Thoreau

These images are from an apiary I have in Carrollton. This year, I decided to try my hand at making queen cells using the Cloake board method. In these pictures, the colony decided to swarm. However, the queen was trapped beneath the excluder. They swarmed outside of the hive and within two hours, they swarmed back in.

-Nathan Jackson

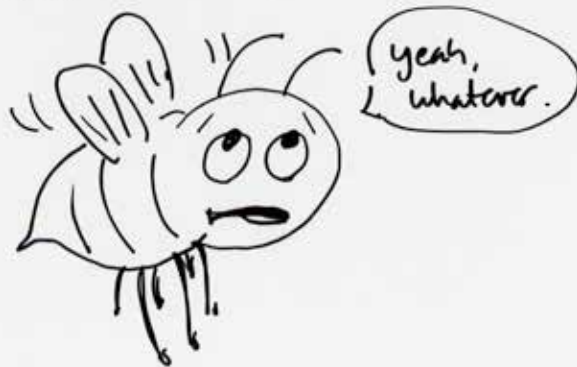


The Eastern Apicultural Society has its annual meeting July 31 - Aug 4 in Newark, DE. Registration is open. Great speakers! Lots to learn!

[Click here to register.](#)

BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood

THE LESSER KNOWN COUSIN OF THE KILLER BEE : THE PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE BEE



4H Essay Contest



GBA supports the 4H essay contest each year. We provide the prize money to the winners. We give \$250 to the first place winner, \$100 to second place and \$50 to third. This essay is the winning essay for 2017. Congratulations to Benjamin Tellano of Hartwell, GA for his win.

Ben, an eighth grader, has participated in 4-H for 5 years. He is very interested in honey safety, and he has won first place for his District Project Achievement project of Food Safety and Preservation the last 2 years.

Honey bees are essential to the survival of humans. Honey bees pollinate 30 percent of our food crops ("National Strategy" 1). Without honey bees, many food crops would disappear and cause a significant lack of food. Honey pollination is responsible for \$16 billion in value to crops annually ("State Managed" 1). Since 2006, a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has been responsible for an average of a 30 percent honey bee colony loss per year (Berry et al. 2). The acceptable rate of loss is 15 percent per year ("National Strategy" 3).

In June 2014, President Barack Obama issued a memorandum establishing a Pollinator Health Task Force. The Task Force devised action plans and resources to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators ("National Strategy" 1) with the collaboration of numerous agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In response to the Task Force, the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) collected and shared pertinent information from stakeholders nationwide with the goal of developing Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) and helping states to form their own policies ("Report" 1).

Each state controls its own MP3. Georgia is one of only seven states that has a finished MP3. Protecting Georgia's Pollinators (PGP) was developed as a collaborative effort between the University of Georgia's (UGA) Department of Entomology and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (Griffin 2). The final MP3 is a result of input from over 35 groups around Georgia (Griffin 3). This plan focuses on "maintaining healthy managed bee colonies, minimizing pesticide exposure and conserving and supplementing pollinator habitats" (Berry et al. 1). Communication, education, cooperation, and common sense play a vital part in Georgia's plan (Berry et al. 5). These voluntary plans are available at UGA Extension Offices across Georgia.

Caleb Kidd, Apiary Manager of Blue Haven Bee Company in Canon, Georgia, states that he is in communication with nearby farms regarding pesticide use. He has not had any significant problems with farmers using excessive pesticides nearby. He states that the Georgia Department of Agriculture has tested his bees and has found no detectible pesticide contamination ("Beekeeping").

The most important aspect of MP3s is communication between all stakeholders involved ("State Managed" 3). All parties involved should communicate through partnerships. For example, anyone planning to use pesticides should contact nearby beekeepers and communicate when and where he is planning to spray pesticides. Having public stakeholder meetings is another great way of communication ("State FIFRA" 3). Direct discussions among beekeepers, crop producers, pesticide applicators, and other agricultural stakeholders is crucial to ascertaining vital issues affecting honey bee health at the state level while building relationships and sharing data ("State Managed" 3).

Growers need accurate and timely information on the location of bee colonies to adequately communicate with beekeepers. Several states have made "pollinator awareness zones" which are areas within a one to two mile radius of a treatment site ("State Managed" 4). Many MP3s utilize hive registration systems for tracking and mapping hive locations. Some examples of registration systems are: FieldWatch, BeeConnected, and the Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry.

Another key part of ensuring the safety of bees through MP3s is by adhering to the information found in best management practices (BMPs) (Klopchin and Moriarty). One way to manage the use of pesticides is by following all of the directions on labels of pesticides (Griffin 5-6). There are specific precautionary statements on pesticide labels designed to protect bees. Be sure to read the entire label and look for words such as "toxic to bees" (Hooven et al. 3-4) and for a special logo to signal that they are toxic to bees (Griffin 7).

Placement of pesticides is another important factor in protecting bees. Some recommendations are: not to spray pesticides when flowers and crops are blooming, not to spread pesticides in pollinated areas (Mader et al. 3), and to apply pesticides only to locations that are a safe distance away from bee colonies (Hooven et al. 11). Honey bees have the potential to forage up to 4 miles away from their hive (Berry et al. 4). Using "Bee Aware" flags to identify locations near agricultural fields helps prevent farmers from using pesticides in that area (Berry et al. 4). The flag should be placed near the bee hives and should be clearly visible to people working on ground or in the air (Berry et al. 4). Sometimes beekeepers will temporarily move or net hives while pesticides are being applied nearby ("State Managed" 5; "State FIFRA" 4).

It is best to reduce or even eliminate pesticides toxic to honey bees. The EPA has improved label language and restrictions on pesticides toxic to honey bees ("National Strategy" 47). The EPA is working on new toxicity study guidelines and regulations and reducing exposures during the planting of pesticide-treated seed ("National Strategy" 47). For example, pesticides with residual toxicity lasting more than eight hours have increased incidences of bee poisoning (Hooven et al. 4).

MP3s are living documents that can be modified depending on variables such as location and new research learned. Because different crops have different needs, states modify their own MP3s for specific cropping systems. States must balance the need to keep honey bees safe while also protecting farmers' crops ("State FIFRA" 1).

According to the EPA, it is challenging to determine actual pesticide exposure and effects on bees. The EPA recommends that beekeepers and scientists continue to research pesticides and its effects on bees ("State Managed" 2; "Guidance" 35).

It is important to educate everyone about CCD and the importance of learning about and adhering to MP3s. Learn more by reading articles in research magazines, searching reputable sites on the Internet, or by contacting local beekeepers and extension offices.

In conclusion, honey bees are fragile and should be treated with care. Beekeepers and other stakeholders should collaborate to prevent the harming of honey bees with pesticides. Adhering to MP3s is a step in the right direction to improving the honey bees' futures.

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Club News

Troup County Beekeepers

We will have Linda Tillman speaking at our May meeting May 15th at 7PM. We will be auctioning 5 GBA memberships.

Our painted beehives are almost finished and we will be at the Market on Main in Lagrange June 3rd to pick this year's winner. All high school art students participating receive a pound of local honey and the winner receives another pound plus other gifts.

Brad Myers and Susan Ray represented beekeepers at Lagrange College Earth Day, Thursday, April 20th. We spoke to students about the unique life of bees and beekeeping.

We had a sugar shake workshop at Cackleberry-farm April 22nd to detect mites. We found 3 mites per 100 on a hive that was split with the original queen.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held our "Panel of Experts" meeting on April 18, 2017, at The Perry Arts Center. Led by Jesse McCurdy, he was joined by Bear Kelley, Tim Smith and Ed Deeming, who answered questions from the audience. Topics ranged from getting nucs, to making splits. A raffle was held after the meeting. Next month's speaker will be national speaker and author, Dana Stahlman who will speak on what to look for in your hives.



Forsyth Beekeepers Club will host its annual Queen Rearing Class May 20 at the Cumming Armory. Students will learn to graft a queen from a frame of young brood. Class will be led by Certified thru Master Beekeepers. Students have an opportunity to graft four queens. Queens can be taken home once capped, or left in a drone yard to mate (student provides nuc once queens are capped).

Space is limited to 20 people, so anyone interested is encouraged to sign up and reserve their spot ASAP. You may sign up by clicking here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba5a-82fa1f49-queen2>

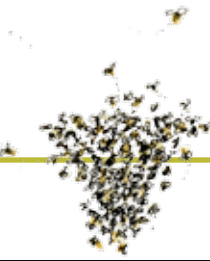
The Chattooga Beekeepers attended Tractor Supply's first day opening. Max Cordle brought his observation hive and Jacob was one of four winners of a one year membership.



Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Is it just Gwinnett County and the surrounding area that is all a buzz with swarms? It seems we get contacted daily with someone that has "scary" bees in their trees or houses. Our club has been collecting swarms and increasing their apiaries this spring and thanks to the great talk last month by Bill Dunn, we know what to look for in our new queens. Bill presented a lot of good information about laying workers, queen myths, and how to ensure you have a queen right hive. Next month we will hear from Brian Drebbler from Drebbieville Hives to discuss his alternative hive that is similar to the Slovenian "AZ Hive". It never hurts to learn new hardware and techniques for beekeeping. As we all age, that 10 frame deep will eventually be too heavy to lift. Our club is open to visitors, so if you find yourself in Dacula on the second Tuesday of the month, please stop by.

May Meetings



Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION	Sergey Volzhskiy – Apitherapist	Thur, May 11, 7PM		
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	Brian Drebber - Drebbieville Hives	Tues, May 9, 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church, building B	
Chattooga Beekeepers	David Williams - Legalities of Selling Bees	Tues, May 9, 7pm	Ag Building, 32 Middle School Rd	Summerville GA 30747
Coweta Beekeepers Assn		Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	How to extract honey	Thurs, May 25, 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Dana Shahlman, national speaker and author	Tues, May 16, 7pm	The Perry Arts Center	Perry, GA
Lake County Beekeepers Association	Keith Fielder, How To Make Creamed Honey	Mon, May 15th 6:30 pm	UGA Extension-4H Building, 12534 Augusta Highway/Hwy 16 East	Sparta, GA
Oglethorpe County Bee Club	TBD	Mon, May 15th, 7-8:30PM	Oglethorpe County Farm Bureau	Crawford (Hwy 78), GA
TARA	TBD	Mon, May 15, 7pm	Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street	Forest Park, Ga. 30297
Tri-State Bee Association	Harvesting & Robbing	Tues, May 16	Dade County Agriculture Building, 114 Pace Drive	Trenton, GA. 30751
Troup County Assoc of Beekeepers	Linda Tillman	Mon, May 15, 7pm		
West Georgia Beekeepers Association	Round Table: Questions and Answers	Mon, May 22		



Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer. To see the list, [click here](#)



JUNE 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So many wonderful things are happening in GBA! Our membership continues to grow. I have visited twelve clubs since the beginning of February and every time I go, we gain members.

Entries are coming in for the license plate design contest. If you have an idea for a bee license plate, [do enter our contest](#). Just click on [the link](#) to go to the rules and specifications. The contest will be judged blind - nobody's entry will

be identifiable to the judges. We are looking forward to the process of getting a honey bee license plate for all of us in Georgia.

The legislative committee has found several legislators who will help push the process through the state legislature and we are excited about what will happen for us if all goes well.

We are sad to note that Bear and Marybeth Kelley are moving to Florida. Bear has done so much for GBA overall and this year, in his role as treasurer. He has completely reorganized the books and has had quarterly meetings with Gina, our vice-president, to cover all of the financial ins and outs of GBA. But because Bear is in the process of moving, I have asked Paul Berry to step in as interim treasurer to fill-in between now and our October meeting. This is a big responsibility and Paul sees it as a way he can step up and help the state bee club. I am so grateful to him.

In the fall, Paul will run for treasurer and if elected will continue to serve us in this role.

In this issue of the newsletter, you'll find an invitation to run for office. Every fall GBA elects officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and two directors for the Board of Directors. Have you considered running for a GBA position? It's a great way both to help your state bee organization and to get to know beekeepers from all over the state. I encourage you to nominate yourself if you would like to run. Just send Brutz an email (he and Broadus Williams are in charge of the fall election).

In other GBA news, we continue to work hard on the fall meeting. Randy Oliver will be giving talks on both Friday and Saturday. We have most of our breakout speakers offering their sessions twice. You will have an opportunity to hear most of what our presenters have to say because there are several times in the schedule to hear each one of them.

Thanks to Julia Mahood, we now have car magnets with the GBA logo on them. They look great on the back of your car. We are only charging \$5 for each. We'll sell them at the fall meeting. If you see me ahead of that, I'll be glad to sell you one before October.

Gina and I are about to begin a set of conference call meetings with the presidents of local clubs in each part of the state. If you are a local club president, I hope you will join us when we invite you for your part of the state. We want to be there for you and to hear your needs and points of view. Watch for an email from me and the opportunity to join in a discussion with other presidents in your general area of the state.

Warm regards,

Linda Tillman

GBA President



Harvesting Honey without an Extractor

By Linda Tillman

Crush and strain honey harvesting is simple to do, uncomplicated to clean up, and so easy that everyone from a child to an old person can do it. In the old days, nobody had an extractor. Many of us in the current beekeeping world prefer to harvest our honey using simple crush and strain.

Materials needed:

- A filter bucket set (available from the big bee companies) – a five gallon bucket equipped with a honey gate and three stacking filters from coarse to fine.
- A roasting pan about the size of a cookie sheet and about 3 inches deep. I often line the roasting pan with a silicone mat the same size as the pan. Makes getting the honey out of the pan easier.
- A rubber spatula
- A sharp knife
- A wooden pestle (I've tried potato mashers – too messy – the wooden pestle or bar muddler is great for the job)
- Lots of good energy

What to do:

- Working with one frame of completely capped honey at a time, set the frame on end in the roasting pan.
- If you use foundationless frames or wax foundation, cut the honey off of the frame with the sharp knife and allow the honey to fall into the roasting pan. If your frames have plastic foundation, scrape the honey off of the frame with a metal spatula.
- Use the pestle and crush the honey until it is pulverized (as a retired psychologist, I can attest to how great this is for getting out your anger).
- Take the rubber spatula and scrape the honey out of the pan into the nested filters sitting in the five gallon bucket.
- Put the top on the filter bucket and allow it to sit for a while until the honey, helped by gravity, filters through into the bucket below.
- Bottle your delicious and tasty honey and you are done.



One filter bucket will hold the crushed honey from one full medium super. Clean up involves washing the pan, the rubber spatula, the knife and the pestle, all of which can be done in a kitchen sink. I put flattened cardboard under my work area, so to clean it, I simply carry the cardboard out to the yard for the bees to clean it up.

Pros: Your honey isn't heated with a hot uncapping knife; your honey isn't aerated by slinging it around through the air in the extractor; and cleanup is extremely easy. This works well for the backyard beekeeper who might not want to buy an expensive extractor or borrow the club's extractor and have to clean it up.

To see a movie on how to harvest by crush and strain, [click here](#).

Honey Harvest Edition!

Photo Gallery



Bees cleaning up the strainer.



Uncapping!



Cut comb honey.



Honey comes in many different colors and flavors.



Bees cleaning up the strained burr comb.

GBA ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

Annual elections for officers and director positions will be held at the October GBA meeting.

Would you like to run for president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer? Or would you like to serve on the Board of Directors? All officer positions are voted on each year as well as two of the four seats on the Board of Directors.

We are seeking qualified candidates to run for each of these positions. A complete list of the various officers and directors as well as their respective duties [can be found here](#). Please submit your nominations soon so we can publicize your wish to run in the newsletter and so we can print your name on the paper ballot.

GBA is an active, dynamic organization and we are growing every day. GBA needs the support of its members from all over the state to step up and lead our organization. We appreciate new and diverse ideas, viewpoints, and skills to help us continue to grow and succeed as we move into the future.

If you are willing to serve and are willing to run for a GBA officer or director seat, please contact one of our committee members. If you know someone who is capable and would make a good officer or director, please forward that person's name to the committee so we can reach out to them.

The nominating committee members and their email addresses are:

Brutz English – brutzenglish@gmail.com

Broadus Williams – broadus2003@hotmail.com

Kelley Campbell – kelleygirl53@hotmail.com

Please share this information with your local club members. If you are a club president, please announce this opportunity to run for GBA positions at your club meetings.

The GBA could not be what it is or what it has the potential to become without you!

Thank you for your support of and commitment to the GBA. We look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Conference at the UGA campus in Griffin, Georgia on October 6 and 7.



It's spring and our packages are here: Beekeepers' joy and lament



**By Robert Grant, Georgia Journeyman Beekeeper
Mountain Beekeepers Association**

Like most beekeepers, we spent winter's last days repairing or replacing woodware equipment in anticipation of the spring hustle to get our colonies and empty hives ready for the spring flow. We replace about a third of the foundation to ensure the ladies will have a clean environment when they arrive. Bottom boards and hive boxes are inspected for rot, cracks, fungus, etc. Some need total replacement, others need a paint job while some will need a bleach and sun application to remove fungus or mold (beekeeping joy in the southeast's warm, humid weather).

About mid-March our packages arrive and we install them into our refurbished condos, (see our article in May's "Spillin' the Honey" for our gentler installation process.) Now we begin the feeding process in earnest. We prefer using two different feeding methods to minimize any robbing of the hives and allowing us to visually monitor the syrup consumption and hive activity. First, we install top feeders using quart jars mounted in heavy, water-proof, transport covers in order to see the hive's consumption rate. Second, we install field feeders for the over-wintering colonies, since they have the preponderance of foraging bees at this early stage. We normally check our hives, during the active season, every two weeks to minimize disturbing normal colony activities. However, during this critical buildup time, experience has taught us to do inspections weekly. The primary reason - queen failure! As of this writing we have lost 50% of our package queens.

As buildup progresses in the northeast Georgia mountains, we are watching the queens and the weather with close attention to the diurnal temperatures. We can't do anything about the weather; yet it can have a profound impact on spring buildup. Queens, however, are within the beekeepers' control in an after-the-fact manner. We closely watch the queen's activity - principally the laying pattern and the rate she fills the frames' available cells, while always looking for the "wall-to-wall" pattern. Concurrently, we look for whether the workers are building comb at a reasonable speed. Next we look for honey bound frames which inhibit the queens ability to lay eggs. Some of these concerns are within our control by:

- Keeping abundant syrup on the hives, and
- Manipulating honey frames to create the critical open center cells
- With all early-season packages, we find ourselves in need of queens. In the past we allowed package queens a lot of time to start laying in earnest when the weather was suitable, and it seldom happened! Generally, we have seen queens failing during 30, 60, and 90 day periods. Thirty days is a serious problem since, locally, queens may be unavailable for a variety of reasons such as drone availability. It's also possible to see a good buildup at first followed by a sudden stagnation of the colony with little or no new brood. Our once queen-right colony is now on the decline and it can happen the day after your weekly inspection! That brings us to the heart of the beekeepers' dilemma - when and where to get viable queens? There are many sources of queens, but generally less during the critical spring buildup. Some queen quality criteria we have adopted in recent years include:
- Varroa and disease resistant
- Gentleness - less aggressive behavior particularly during the flow, and
- Local weather tolerance

Experienced beekeepers generally have a working knowledge of the first two, as there is a cornucopia of information on Varroa and diseases available online. Information can also be found in books, industry publications, local and state beekeeper meetings, and bee certification programs. New beekeepers should avail themselves of these resources to minimize many of the pitfalls.

The third criteria above can be dependent on geographical location. For example, in the north Georgia mountains, we need queens capable of producing workers that are cold weather tolerant.

Fortunately, we have found a source for Varroa resistant queens not too far from us that meet the three criteria. More importantly, they are available around the times matching our 30, 60, and 90 day

periods. This particular queen provider will not release the queens until the queen's ovaries are fully developed and she is laying a consistent pattern. This is not the case with many early spring package providers which results in a higher queen failure rate.

Now that we have our queens, it is time to introduce them to their new families. Like all beekeepers we carefully inspect the hives for:

- Presence of a mated or unmated "superseded" queen (opened queen cells)
- Existing capped and uncapped brood
- Level of agitation in the workers
- The presence of eggs, and
- Cells containing multiple eggs or excessive drone brood in the brood area

Finding no queen or signs of a queen, while recognizing the difficulty of finding an unmated queen, it is time to introduce the queen. Our approach is to lay the queen across the top bars of the hive and watch the worker reaction to her for about five to ten minutes. See Exhibit 1.



Exhibit 1 – Queen Early Acceptance Test

If the workers appear to accept her, by feeding and hanging around her, we insert the queen cage into the space between frames and close up the colony. See Exhibit 2.



Exhibit 2 – Queen Cage Inserted

If the workers are biting at the cage or trying to sting her through the cage, we remove her immediately and the inspection is repeated. Generally, this would mean that we missed the queen, there is a virgin queen or there are laying workers. If the results are the same we will try again the following day and if the workers still resist accepting her, we will try combining the hive with a much stronger one. The key is to watch the initial queen acceptance which does take time but is worth every minute.

So far, this year, we have had to replace 55% of the queens by the 60th day. That's a lot of queens, time, lost brood production, and money. For us this means time to find a new package provider or switch to NUCs that, on the surface, are double the cost of a package. In reality, this ends up being only 50% higher in cost or break-even when we consider the cost of buying a new queen and the requeening work.

As a final point we, along with several other mountain beekeepers, are trying different queens (races and providers) to see which will better perform during the season and over-winter well.



Tribute to Pat Brookshire



The Tara Beekeepers would like to share our fond remembrances of **Pat Arnzen Brookshire** with fellow beekeepers. This spring we lost Pat, our very vibrant and dedicated club president. Here's the thing, though... you just can't think of Pat and be sad at the same time. She made sure of that!

Pat was fun-loving and had a really great sense of humor. She parlayed those attributes in her leadership roles making our meetings and events fun and enjoyable. That's saying a lot because the Tara Beekeepers is a fun and social club to begin with.

She was the club secretary before she was the president. She never hesitated to take on any difficult task like managing publicity or the tedious work of bringing bylaws up to date. Her positive outlook, good-natured approach, and light-heartedness made all the work she did for us seem effortless. Her enthusiasm for promoting information about honeybees really impacted our club. She created signs to place outside our meetings informing the public: "All are welcome." That's quintessential Pat!



Giving and sharing joy with those around her defined Pat. She used her brilliance and big-heartedness to serve everyone (and every creature) that crossed paths with her. Pat loved honeybees and she gave our club her very best. At a celebration of her life, we learned how she passionately and professionally did the same thing

for other organizations like the Georgia Jack Russell Rescue, Adoption & Sanctuary. Pat loved Jack Russell terriers as much or more than the bees! Throughout her life, Pat helped many individuals and organizations and she always did it very, very well.

Pat deeply loved her family and friends. Her grandson Hudson held a special place in her heart, and her husband David was truly her partner in crime. They had fun together. They traveled and brewed spirits together. They shared their love of dogs and bees and people. David is our club treasurer and, like Pat, he is open, fun-loving and easy to know. The two of them were perfectly matched.

Pat is admired for so many reasons—she was thoughtful, compassionate and giving. She made you feel good when you were with her because love was at the core of all that she did and all that she gave. In short, Pat was a very loving person... and she is loved.

Keif Schleifer

President, Tara Beekeepers



Dear Aunt Bee,

My club is not listed in either the Club Meetings or the Club News in Spilling the Honey. Why not, and what can we do to get listed?

Signed,

Wondering Why

Dear Wondering,

That is a very good question. Spilling the Honey encourages and pleads with all GBA clubs to submit information monthly about the local clubs; tell us what is going on and what has happened in the local clubs.

If your club information and meeting location are not listed here, please contact your club president or media specialist and urge them to send pictures, articles, stories and tales that happened within your club.

Spilling the Honey strives to contain timely, interesting articles and stories from around Georgia, to instruct, entertain and share the vast amount of knowledge our beekeepers have gained over the years. We believe it is our responsibility as seasoned beekeepers to help new-bees to learn the craft and get involved in the lifelong love affair we share with honey bees.

Your news and events can be emailed anytime to Julia and Rick at gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

We hope to see your club listed next month!

Signed,

Aunt Bee



Photo by Todd Folger



After adding another super, I had to stand on a ladder and hand the frames to my husband. I'm 5 feet tall-height challenged!-Gail Dean

MEET THE GBA BUZZ FUND

Did you know that GBA has a Buzz Fund? The money in the Buzz Fund has been donated from individuals and Georgia beekeeping clubs over several years. The purpose of the Buzz Fund is to "support research in the beekeeping community."

In 2016 GBA member, Courtney Wadley, applied for a Buzz Fund grant to complete her research on the impact of treatment used in the beehive against the varroa mite. We have had three grant requests in 2017. We gave funds to Tim Doherty to support his effort to help veterans get started in beekeeping. We granted money to Gloria Huddleston and Clint Ready to plant pollinator gardens at Middle Georgia State University. And we have awarded grant money to Jennifer Berry to use as part of her research on oxalic acid. Because we didn't use up all of our funds, we still have a little bit of this money left and are able to handle other small grants this year.

The Buzz Fund grows through accepting donations. Generally local clubs in GBA give donations to increase the Buzz Fund. We are hoping that individuals will donate to our Buzz Fund as well.

Donations are easily made [on our website](#). When you click the link, then choose the "Donate" button on the upper right of the page.

Traditionally clubs and individuals present a check in person for their donations at our fall meeting Oct 5 & 6 in Griffin GA to our enthusiastic applause. However, we are glad to accept contributions at any time.



**Tim Doherty of Docs Healing Hives.
Photo by Gina Gallucci**

Please read the grant application form - you may come up with a worthy idea to apply for funds for your own work. Please donate what you are able as soon as you can. We all benefit from the positive impact of inspired new beekeepers, habitat improvement, creative honey bee programs and new research.

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 Bill Owens bowens@gabeeremoval.com or mailed to: Bill Owens 4510 Springwood Dr Monroe GA, 30655

Members of the Beekeeper of the Year Committee include the most recent beekeepers of the year: Bill Owens, Rose Anne Dorn, and Bear Kelley.



The Gallberry is in full bloom at my house and the bees are all over it.- Monte McDonald

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



GBA FALL MEETING

On October 6 and 7, 2017, we will have our fall meeting at the UGA Griffin campus. We are excited to welcome Randy Oliver as our featured speaker!

Other nationally known speakers include Tammy Horn, Kerry Owen, and Rusty Berlew.

It's a great line-up with lots of opportunities to learn more about the honey bee and to add to your beekeeping skills.

Registration is now open and you can register for the meeting by [clicking here](#).

BREAKOUT TOPICS INCLUDE

- How to make creamed honey
- Plants to plant for bees
- How to keep your neighbors from killing your bees
- The ins-and-outs of club finances
- GA Tech's latest honey bee research
- How to start a beekeeping business
- How to put on a Jr. Beekeeping course
- Bee biology

...and more!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Hodges of Dunwoody Georgia attained the level of Master Craftsman Beekeeper at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in May! The Master Craftsman level is the highest level possible, and takes many years of work and study to complete.

A native of Atlanta and a graduate of Emory University, Cindy (with her husband Mike) own and operate "Hodges Honey" apiaries with colonies in several locations around north Georgia. They sell local nucs, honey, and queens.

Cindy has many awards from honey contests at the local, state, and international levels. She is a prize winning photographer and enjoys photographing bees at work. She has been interviewed on television, quoted in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and has published articles in Bee Craft Magazine (UK) and Bee Culture Magazine (USA).

Cindy is a Senior Welsh Honey Judge and past president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. In 2012 she was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year.


Congratulations, Cindy!



Photo by Ben Rouse



Pictured here are the students in the Welsh Honey Judging course at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in May.



The Eastern Apicultural Society has its annual meeting July 31 - Aug 4 in Newark, DE. Registration is open. Great speakers! Lots to learn!
[Click here to register.](#)

Club News

The Appalachian Beekeepers Association of GA and the Cherokee Beekeepers Club invites you and your friends to attend our annual summer clinic and picnic.

Date: Saturday, June 17th, 2017

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm EDT

Location: Pickens County Chamber of Commerce, 500 Stegall Drive, Jasper, GA 30143

BBQ meats and beverages will be provided. Non-members will pay \$5 at the door for lunch or will have the option of paying \$10 for membership in either club for the remainder of 2017; which includes lunch. Please sign up to bring your favorite dish. Hands on mite-related workshops from 10 am until noon including:

- critical information for winter survival
- oxalic and formic acid application demos
- mite detection and control
- afternoon workshops to include honey extracting demonstration
- several walk-by and in-hive workshops

Pre-registration required.



Dana Stahlman was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association**. Mr Stahlman, a 4th generation beekeeper, spoke on what to look for when opening the hives. His powerpoint presentation was entertaining and informative, as was his anecdotal stories. Mr Stahlman has a book and CD on beekeeping which is chock-full of great information.

Our next meeting on June 20 will feature Coweta Beekeeper Steve Page, speaking on queen rearing. Everyone is invited to attend.



Oglethorpe County Bee Club

While two of my club members, Ted Adams and Tom Hankins, were called to remove bees from a residence in Oglethorpe County recently, they encountered the following objects in an old barn. I thought it would be of interest to the readers of Spilling the Honey considering the price of the honey, in addition to the old super that was apparently used to make comb honey. What year(s) do you think it was when these objects were used? Guesses anyone? In any case, these two men did some further sleuthing and determined that there once was a large beekeeping operation on the property where these objects were found. -Joe Conti

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

School is out and extracting is in! The honey flow is starting to wind down in Gwinnett County, so many of our members are harvesting their first batch of honey. Our club has an extractor with free usage for our members. Many are learning the tricks of keeping the bees calm while stealing their honey. Putting your inner cover with a bee escape under the super you plan to harvest for 12 hours seems to work to eliminate most of the worker bees. Any drones will be hanging out on the comb since they can't fit through the escape, but these of course are no problem. Others are using fume boards to help drive the workers off the capped brood. That's the beauty of beekeeping....use what works best for you!

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County will meet on June 13, 2017, for our annual family picnic. We will be at Rancho Alegre Farms in Dacula, GA. Bring a side dish to share.



Troup County Association of Beekeepers had Linda Tillman speaking at our May meeting. We raffled 5 memberships to GBA! You can see painted hives being displayed in preparation for our upcoming contest. The contest will be June 3rd from 8-10AM at the first Market on Main farmers market in downtown Lagrange. The hives were painted by high school art students and one hive was painted by cancer survivors. All the artists received one pound of local honey; the winner will receive another pound of honey and a gift certificate for the downtown authority.

Keith Fielder will be speaking at our June meeting. We are planning an extraction and BBQ in June date TBD.

June Meetings

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association	Steve Page: Raising queens and making splits	Thurs., June 8, 7PM	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Drive	Jasper, GA 30143
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	TBD	Tues, 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church, Bldg. B	
CEBA	Jane Quattlebaum - Diagnosing the Hive	Mon, June 12, 6pm	Oatland Island	
Chattooga Beekeepers	TBD	Tues, 7pm	Ag Building, 32 Middle School Rd	Summerville GA 30747
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	TBD		Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Tom Rearick- How a bee thinks	Thurs, 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Steve Page - queen rearing	Tues, June 20, 7pm	The Perry Arts Center	Perry, GA
Lake County Beekeepers Association	Hive, Honey and Mead Demonstrations	Sat, June 10, 9am to noon	Courson's Winery - 2623 GA Highway 22	Sparta, GA 31087
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association	TBD	Thurs, June 28, 6pm	Chow Time Chinese Buffet 418 Northside Dr E	Statesboro, Georgia, GA 30458
Oglethorpe County Bee Club	Joe Conti - Honey Bee Biology	Mon, June 19, 7-8:30PM	Oglethorpe County Farm Bureau	Crawford (Hwy 78), GA
TARA	Arthur English - Preparing for the Honey Show	Mon, June 19, 7pm	Kiwanis Bldg., 752 Main Street	Forest Park, GA



Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer. To see the list, [click here](#)



JULY 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now many of you have harvested honey. I hope you had a great harvest and are enjoying the hard work your bees have done and the gifts they have provided for you.

In GBA we are working hard on the bee license plate for Georgia. Eighteen creative and beautiful entries were submitted for our design contest. I catalogued the entries, numbered each uniquely and then sent them to our distinguished judges. The judges will each select their top three choices.

I was so impressed with the quality and creativity of our entries. Everyone depicted the honey bee as he/she saw her. And everyone took his/her own view of how best to represent the honey bee on a license plate. The entries were so good that I imagine the judges will have a hard time deciding.

To make the contest completely blind, I discovered that you can get sets of randomized letters and numbers by searching Google! (Of course, right?) So each license plate design received a random three letter code. The individual license plate designs were given their code and submitted on single pages so the judge could view the design as large as possible. There is no way for any judge to know from whom the design came.

We also created a new gmail address that is only being used for the license plate contest. Paul Berry (our current treasurer) and I are the only people who have access to that email. The two of us will be tabulating the decisions of the judges.

The gmail address was used by entrants to send in their designs. We instructed the entrants to send their designs both to the president's email address and to the email address created for the contest. That was our only snafu in the system so far in that the new gmail address was long and several entrants made typos so their entries only went to the president's email. At least with that backup of duplicate submission, no entry fell through the cracks.

We have five judges. There is a variety of backgrounds among our judges, ranging from a graphic arts professor to a day to day beekeeper. They were sent the license design entries separately so they will be judging on their own, not influenced by any of the other judges. Some consultation between the judges may be required if there is not a clear winner after the first round of judging.

I am looking forward to seeing which plate design they select. The first round of judging will be over by July 7. We will be able to announce the winner by the end of July.

Our fall meeting will be held on October 6 and 7 at the UGA-Griffin campus. Registration is now open and you can register for the meeting by [clicking here](#).

Hope your bees do well through the summer,

Linda Tillman
GBA President



Photo Gallery

This is my first year doing a top bar hive. I added a swarm of bees into it in April. They have built out 11 bars and are doing great.

–**Derick E Forester** Tristate beekeepers president
www.foresterfarmsandapiary.com



MEMBERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL

By **Bear Kelley**, GBA Treasurer

Your membership in the Georgia Beekeeping Association is essential! First and foremost, the benefits of education, socialization and communication in the bee world are priceless to you as a beekeeper.

When I first became involved with GBA, we had about 187 active (paid up) members and 13 local clubs. Now, as of June 17, 2017, we have 718 paid up members and 45 local clubs throughout the state. With the rise in numbers, we had to take on a membership program to handle the load, "Wild Apricot". This program manages new members, renewing members and much more. It takes the load off the treasurer as far as keeping checks posted and accounting for our membership. The program gives us a lot of data and sends out renewals to our membership automatically. As the Treasurer, I monitor that on a day to day basis and see who has been notified for renewal and those who do not for whatever reason.

As of June 17th, we have 130 members who have not renewed. You will stay on the books for a short period before you are dropped as a non-paid member. The best way to stay involved is to sign up as an automatic renewal. You may sign up for multiple years to avoid the annual hassle.

Remember, our dues are simply \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. So please, if you receive an email notice that it is time to renew, do so as soon as possible. We need your valuable support if we are going to continue to have two fabulous meetings a year and continue to provide statewide support to you.

The programs we have had in the last few years have brought in nationally known speakers and have been in some fine facilities. Your membership has helped GBA grow into the very professional organization that you would expect. Our executive board has a lot of great things planned and are working hard (as volunteers) to ensure the Georgia Beekeepers thrive and continue to take care of our bees.

Please also know that the Georgia Beekeepers Association will celebrate our 100th anniversary in the year 2020. Just 2 ½ years from now. So, stay involved and help us meet the century mark.



The Long Box

By Dan Long

A great way to carry essential tools to the bee yard that's easy to build, too!



A cardboard box, a bucket, a pile in the back of the pickup... now, where's that lighter? Keeping all your tools handy and ready is important; especially when

you have to travel to more than one bee yard. A couple of years ago, my wife and kids gave me a custom toolbox for beekeepers called a Merrill Toolbox. I enjoyed using it but found its design difficult at times. The tools strapped to the outside would catch on tall grass and clothing. The smoker would fall out of its strap now and then and the bellows covers the latch. It's also heavy and generally bulky. It is a great tool for moving splits but I wanted something better and lighter for the basics.

I'm a big fan of simple, sturdy tools and decided a new toolbox should be no exception. It needs to carry all the basics under field conditions and be flexible enough to handle other odds and ends. It should also be simple to build, if possible. The first step is deciding what's essential and taking measurements. It turns out a smoker is really much longer than expected. The box ended up being a full 2 feet long! That's OK as long as the weight is balanced when it's carried. It also has to have a low enough center of gravity to be stable in the back of the truck.

I took a list of measurements to the local Lowe's where they carry a wide selection of pre-cut boards of various sizes. It turns out just 3 boards would be enough for the whole thing! (see parts list) They stock several species of wood but the Oak felt too heavy so I chose Poplar. A quick stop in the hardware aisle for wood

screws and I was on my way. The first step is to cut 2 lengths of 14 inches, off one of the half inch 4 foot boards, for the uprights and taper them. The cuts start 5 1/2 inches up and leave a 3/4 inch flat area at the top. Drill a small hole 3/8 inches from the top of each to attach the handle later. Next, cut two, 5 1/2 inch pieces off the remains of that board. This gives you the 2 uprights, the far end, and a divider.

Now cut two, 1 inch pieces, off to make the little divider parts. I like to carry 2 hive tools, a long lighter, and a bee brush. My bee brush has a skinny handle so all 3 fit across the end with the small dividers. If you have a brush with a wider handle, cut it down or change the spacing.

The one inch board makes the bottom and the handle by cutting off a 3/4 inch strip lengthwise. Set aside the handle for fitting last. Cut the other half inch board into two pieces two feet long to make up the sides. With all the parts, test fit the pieces as shown in the pictures. Now you're ready to assemble! Waterproof wood glue is a good idea but not necessary. Predrilling the screw holes is also a good idea since the wood may split otherwise.

First assemble the 2 sides with the far upright and smoker end. Turn it over and screw the bottom onto the sides and ends. Next, assemble the divider pieces and screw into place. Some sanding may be required for fit. Another piece of the half inch board can be added as an additional divider for a notepad and/or phone if wanted. Check the fit with the smoker and the middle upright before screwing it in place. Be sure to leave enough room. It should be snug but not too tight. Just enough to slightly



compress the bellows. Next, measure the distance between the uprights and cut down the handle. It's a good idea to pre-drill the ends of the handle to make it easier to

attach and wood glue will keep it from spinning and loosening over time. The handle is skinny but the overall weight of the box isn't much; even loaded up.

I used 40 screws but you could get away with fewer; especially if you use glue. More dividers could be added and a hinged lid could be used to keep the center compartment dry. The middle of each upright could also be cut out to make it lighter and lower the center of gravity a little more but all these things make it complicated and I promised simplicity! The box could be finished with polyurethane or even paint if desired. Consider painting the small parts before assembly. Also bear in mind the smoker will be hot at times.

A piece of bottom board screen can be added in case an ember makes its way to the bottom of the smoker. It will create an air gap below the smoker so it won't scorch the wood. The heat shield on the side of the smoker makes enough buffer for the sides of the box. The center compartment is wide enough for a box of nitrile gloves and there's room for plenty of your favorite fuel. I've only had this for a short time but have found its width and weight just fine. If you make one or have suggestions for improvements, I'd love to hear from you!



The Long Box

Parts List:

2 1/2x6 x 4ft
1 1x8 x 2ft
40 #8 1 1/4 wood screws
Wood glue (optional)

Tools:

Saw
Screwdriver
Sandpaper
Drill and small bit

Dan Long is a member of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association, and a newly passed Journeyman.



It's time to put on your thinking caps and grab your cameras. Next month in *Spilling the Honey* we'd like to see your home, barn, garage, honey house, apiary, and have you answer the following question in prose and pictures:

You may be a beekeeper if...

Send your email to: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

HOPE IS IN THE AIR AS THE FIRST SOURWOOD BLOOMS APPEAR

By Bob Grant, *Turning Creek Artisans*

The wildflower flow has left without a bang here in the North Georgia Mountains. Like other regions in Georgia, we had a lot of rain in addition to a number of cold snaps which impacted the bee buildup and normal budding out of plants and trees. The bees are still capping it, but we've been able to pull a few boxes. Right now it looks like another medium flow — not much to write home about.

"Adding injury to insult" we had to replace 75% of our South Georgia package queens. The bulk of failures occurred in the first thirty- to sixty-day period. The queens just quit laying, probably due to poor mating. (Our queen replacement efforts were described in the June edition of *Spilling the Honey*.)

The new queens appear to be doing much better despite cool evenings where temperatures can dip into the low 60's to upper 50's. We still have a small number of hives below production level as we continue watching the queens closely, for any problems.

We saw signs of Sourwood flow in the Tallulah Gorge area in southeastern Rabun County just after the first week in June. Finally, those lovely white blossoms "bells" began to appear in the northern part of our county at 2100 -2200 feet during the third week.

During June, we really hustle to complete our prep for the Sourwood flow. We inspect and adjust each hive to ensure, where possible, a clear honey line of wildflower honey and marking the wildflower boxes. Next, we add additional supers for the Sourwood flow that are marked for Sourwood. In the past, we used tape but discovered with all the rain that it became illegible, so we recently adopted the magic marker approach.

In our larger apiaries, we noticed evidence of robbing, so we installed field feeders for the short dearth period. Robbing stopped! Now the bees are going high out of the boxes and are finding the prize.



GBA ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

By Brutz English, GBA Board of Directors

As our Fall Conference approaches, we must prepare for our annual elections. We have been blessed with another excellent slate of officers who have served the GBA admirably this year. Fortunately, some of those officers are willing to continue to serve another term, but some will be stepping down to let others have an opportunity to take various positions of leadership.

The offices up for election this October are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two (2) Board of Director seats. A list of all offices and duties can be found under Articles VI and VII of the GBA by-laws, which are posted on the GBA website at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Documents/bylaws.pdf>.

While we are fortunate to have several experienced officers who have expressed a willingness and intent to stay on and continue their service. However, the GBA is an open democracy. Therefore, all offices up for election may be contested, and we encourage all of our members who have any interest in holding a GBA office or Board position to step up and run for office.

If you are interested in running for a GBA position, or if you know someone who would make an excellent officer or Board member, please contact one of our committee members. Also, please feel free to contact any of our committee members with any questions you might have in regard to the election process. The committee members are Brutz English (brutzen-english@gmail.com or 770-843-2110), Broadus Williams (broadus2003@hotmail.com), and Kelley Campbell (kelleygirl53@hotmail.com).

The GBA cannot continue to grow & thrive without strong leadership. Please help us put together the best slate of candidates possible to ensure our organization continues to grow and prosper. We look forward to hearing from you with lots of nominations.



While trying to split a queenless, unfriendly hive, we had the good idea; the bees had other ideas.



By Anita Curry



Recovering More Honey From Cappings

By Steve Page



How much honey remains in cappings after letting them drain for a few days?

I did an experiment with my Maxant Jr. Spinner. My friend Adam had extracted about 475 pounds of honey and let the cappings drain for three days. We put the cappings in my Jr. Spinner and turned it on wondering if there was much honey left. After a few minutes, honey started draining out of the Jr. Spinner. After 24 hours the honey stopped draining, and it had recovered 12 pounds of honey. Another \$120 of honey to sell.

A spinner removes honey from cappings just like a top loading clothes washer removes water during the spin cycle. A spinner is made out of stainless steel with an outer tank and an inner spinning perforated tank. An electric motor rotates the inner tank slinging the honey to the outer tank to drain into a pail.

The 12 pounds of honey would have been fed back to the bees if not for the Jr. Spinner. A spinner will pay for itself. The spinner recovered an additional 2.5% of honey that was in the honey house but unrecoverable without the spinner. The Jr. Spinner is quicker and more thorough completing the process in about one day.

Maxant equipment can be purchased directly from their website or dealers including Rossman Apiaries in Moultrie, Georgia.

<http://www.maxantindustries.com/spinners.html>

<https://gabees.com/product/maxant-l1200-jr-jr-cappings-spinner/>

“When to American colonists decided to revolt, they wanted to forge a new identity, and establishing a new currency was an important mark of independence. The Continental Congress of Philadelphia (1779) adopted the bee skep to on its currency. Given the high illiteracy rates and unstable state-sponsored banking systems, colonists needed to have an image that would offer stability.”

• **From BEES IN AMERICA by Tammy Horn** •

Tammy Horn will be speaking at the GBA Fall Meeting in October

Photo Gallery



Photo by Michelle Mincey



Photo by Julia Mahood



Photo by Sarah Price



Photo by Michelle Mincey

CAVEAT EMPTOR: LET THE BUYER BEWARE

ESPECIALLY WHEN BUYING BEES ONLINE

By Rick Moore

This is embarrassing. No one of relative intelligence should ever let this happen to him. But I did. And there is a lesson in here for all of you.

This has been a rough year for beekeeping; we've experienced less than normal bee production and less than normal honey production. We've had too many colonies abscond for no apparent reason. I cannot complain as we began the season with 12 hives and have grown through acquisition, splits, swarms and purchases to around 40 colonies.

With queenless hives, and queens of poor laying patterns I knew I wanted to requeen some colonies. While surfing various Facebook bee pages, I saw an ad from a man in Manor, GA who advertised he had 1500 mated queens for sale at \$21 each. Now, as you follow along with me, you will notice many red flags that pop up. You will see them; I saw some of them, and regrettably chose to ignore them. After all, if it's on the internet it is true, right?

I called the number, spoke with the wife, who was very kind on the phone and blessed me at the end of the conversation. She said she'd call me the next day with the total price for five mated queens shipped overnight delivery to me. She did not. Red flag #2. It took several day and several texts later for me to again make contact. \$112.17 for five mated queens, delivered overnight. Red flag #3. Five queens at \$21 is \$105; overnight shipping from nowhere is \$7.17. Red flag #4. I asked how to pay them, I wanted the queens, they sounded nice on the phone, surely they were honest, I could solve my hive troubles by getting mated queens overnight, right?

It took several more days for the Mister Queen-maker to call me and tell me how to pay. He only accepts Western Union. No Paypal, no credit card, no Square. Only Western Union, or cashier's check. You see the next red flag, don't you?

But the internet says...and he and his wife

blessed me on the phone....

I sent his \$112.17 via Western Union and paid the additional \$12.50 for the funds to be ready in a manner of minutes. He said he'd ship my queens that day. Uh huh, you guessed it. He didn't. In fact he claimed he left town and went to Florida, that he'd ship them next week.

*Do not fall
for the desire
to get bees
online from
someone you
don't know*

This story now involves many texts, several phone calls, many, many promises by Mister Queen-maker; none of which ever came to pass. He'd promised his brother would drive them to me to make up for not shipping them when he said he would. And that he, himself, would drive them to me. Ya, by this point I had realized I was dealing with a liar and a thief,

there was no getting any queens. I demanded my money back. To make a long, two month long story much shorter, the Queen-maker in Manor, GA, has neither delivered any bees to me, nor has he refunded the demanded money to me. Nothing.

I posted the story on several Facebook bee pages and received a lot of contacts of other people who have had money stolen by this same man.

That is my story. Do not feel sorry for me, I have learned a lesson, and if \$112.17 was the cost of tuition, I'd say that lesson was cheap. If you are buying bees online, please do your due diligence, check out the seller. And most importantly, go pick up the bees, see the operation. Do not trust what you read online and especially on Facebook. Buy locally from reputable sellers who accept payment from a credit card, which has built in protections for you. Never send ANY money by Western Union. You lose.

If just one of you readers heed my tale and do not fall for the desire to get bees online from someone you do not know, and you do due diligence and prevent an unfortunate event like this one, then my experience, my learning experience, was yours also. And I will see a happy ending to a sad tale.

Buy locally, from a reputable beekeeper.



Dear Aunt Bee,

I have melted my wax cappings, the wax is such a pretty yellow! My question is, what is that gritty stuff hanging under the wax? It looks like sand.

Signed,

Waxy Wonders



Dear Waxy,

It is called slumgum. Slumgum is the residue of the beewax rendering process. While wax from cappings and honeycombs is fairly pure, wax from brood comb contains not only wax but also the pupal lining, pollen, cocoons from both bees and wax moths, excrement from bee larvae, and other residual debris. After the comb has melted, the slumgum-which is heavier than wax-sinks to the bottom of the container. Slumgum is dark brown to black with a slightly foul odor.

Regardless of its appearance, slumgum is very attractive to bees, especially when it is warm and aromatic. Some people use slumgum inside bait hives to attract wild swarms.

Signed,

Aunt Bee



BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood



The Eastern Apicultural Society has its annual meeting July 31 - Aug 4 in Newark, DE. Registration is open. Great speakers! Lots to learn!
[Click here to register.](#)

We are going to have a baking contest at the Fall Meeting!

This is not to be confused with the baked item categories which are part of the Spring Artisan's Show, nor is this contest part of the annual Honey Show which will be held at the Fall Meeting. Rather, this is a complimentary element to both existing competitions, and a creative new competitive event for our members to take part of!

There's going to be a dessert social one evening at the Fall Conference. Contestants can bring their entries by the venue before the social starts, and we will let everyone try them out during the party. The winning recipe will be decided by "people's choice." The winning entry will be awarded a blue ribbon, and will be designated as the Baked Item in the Spring Artisan's show! Details regarding time and location of turn in will be provided once the Conference agenda has been set. Please contact Brutz English (brutzenGLISH@gmail.com or 770-843-2110) with any questions.

The rules are as follows:

- 1) Entrants must be a GBA member in good standing.
- 2) There is NO limitation on the number of entries per entrant.
- 3) There should be NO potentially identifying marks visible on any portion of any entry. Contest officials will mark and document all entries.
- 4) An entry is two (2) identical examples of the same baked item. One example is to be presented in-tact, and un-portioned (as for formal presentation). The second is to be divided into individual serving portions, at the discretion of the entrant (with a minimum of 8 servings).
- 5) A 4" x 6" white card on which the recipe (including ingredients and procedure) is written must accompany each entry. Entrants name should not be on card.
- 6) Entries will be judged on the following criteria: a) use of honey in the finished item; b) simplicity & clarity of the recipe; c) taste; and d) visual presentation.
- 7) The winning entry will be awarded a Blue Ribbon, and will be the designated as the "Baked Item" at the GBA Spring Artisan's Show.



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 Bill Owens bowens@gabeeremoval.com or mailed to: Bill Owens 4510 Springwood Dr Monroe GA, 30655

Members of the Beekeeper of the Year Committee include the most recent beekeepers of the year: Bill Owens, Rose Anne Dorn, and Bear Kelley.



Kim Bailey shows us her "I found the queen" hand stamp at last year's GBA meeting.

What a great idea to have one of these on hand when you are having a Jr. Beekeepers course, or when you show an observation hive to a children's group!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



GBA FALL MEETING

On October 6 and 7, 2017, we will have our fall meeting at the UGA Griffin campus. We are excited to welcome Randy Oliver as our featured speaker!

Other nationally known speakers include Tammy Horn, Kerry Owen, and Rusty Berlew.

It's a great line-up with lots of opportunities to learn more about the honey bee and to add to your beekeeping skills.

Registration is now open and you can register for the meeting by [clicking here.](#)

BREAKOUT TOPICS INCLUDE

- How to make creamed honey
- Plants to plant for bees
- How to keep your neighbors from killing your bees
- The ins-and-outs of club finances
- GA Tech's latest honey bee research
- How to start a beekeeping business
- How to put on a Jr. Beekeeping course
- Bee biology

...and more!

Club News



Troup County Association of Beekeepers had an extraction workshop and BBQ in June.

Potato Creek Beekeepers Short Course: Come learn about the fascinating world of honeybees and beekeeping on Saturday, August 26, 2017. The Potato Creek Beekeepers Club is putting on a Beekeeping Short Course, Beekeeping 101 for beginners, and it's only \$25 to attend. Learn everything you need to know to get started with your own colony of honeybees. The Short Course will be held at the Spalding County Extension Office, located at 865 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA 30223. To register, call the Spalding Co. Extension Office, 770-467-4225, during normal business hours. Space is limited, so sign up early!

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association meets monthly in Sparta, GA. At a typical meeting we bring in a knowledgeable speaker and somewhere around 30 members attend. What is best about our meetings is the atmosphere of exchange and friendship created between fellow beekeepers as well as their families. Geographically we cover a 50 mile radius where our beekeepers and bees dwell. Our bees probably know one another too.

On Saturday June 10th, our club offered a "Mead, Honey Extraction & Hive Demonstration" at Courson's Winery located on Hwy 22 west of Sparta. It's another benefit when active club members offer their place of business, farm or apiary as an alternative club meeting site. Our club's mead expert, Raymond Courson gave an interesting and detailed demonstration on the ingredients and how to's on making a tasty mead. In addition, his wine tasting room allowed us to sample a variety of his products. Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries used an electric 9 frame extractor to show how honey easily comes out of honey frames. Honey harvest can be a mystery until you watch it live. Bruce is always willing and patient to share his beekeeping knowledge and insights. Finally, Roger Kicklighter, a Georgia Journeyman Beekeeper, suited us up and helped us peek inside live hives. Again, we read the books and see the pictures, but working a hive with an expert is something every beekeeper needs to experience. We completed this Saturday event with delicious grilled burgers and hotdogs and some mighty tasty homemade cole slaw (see attached recipe that our member Carol Bramblett kindly shared). Please come visit and attend one of our club meetings in Sparta. We would enjoy having you. We meet the 3rd Monday of every month. You can also find us on Facebook.

Carol Bramblett's Cole Slaw

Chop in food processor or blender:

1 head cabbage (about 3 lbs.)

1 green pepper

2 onions (she uses Vidalias)

Add 2 cups sugar and allow it to sit.

Mix and heat to boil:

1 cup white vinegar

1 cup vegetable oil

1 tablespoon salt

1-2 tablespoons celery seed

Pour over slaw and sugar mixture.

Chill and serve.

Keeps for three weeks in the refrigerator.



The **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association** is printing yard signs to educate folks who don't understand that spraying for mosquitoes can also kill beneficial insects. We hope to combat all those signs out there bragging about being mosquito free!

Henry County Beekeepers Short Course: Come learn about the fascinating world of honeybees and beekeeping on Saturday October 28, 2017. The Henry County Beekeepers Club is putting on a Beekeeping Short Course, Beekeeping 101 for beginners. It's only \$25 to attend. Learn everything you need to know to get started with your own colony of honeybees. The Short Course will be held at the Henry County Extension Office, located at 97 Lake Dow Road, McDonough, GA 30254. To register, call Jerry Haygood, at (770) 461-6686! Space is limited, so sign up early!



On June 20th, The **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association** had our monthly meeting. Over 50 members and guests heard Lee Ledger talk about his experience with swarm traps, and Steve Page taught us about his notching method of queen rearing.

Lee had two traps on display that he designed and built. He shared several stories on placement and

monitoring the traps.

Steve Page, former president of Coweta Beekeepers Assn, traveled from Newnan to present an interesting method of queen rearing. Steve captured all of the members as he shared his experiences with 'notching' egg cells to grow quality queens. Steve also made his entire pre-

sentation available through email.

The **Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County** will be selling T-Shirts with our Club name and logo on it for \$15. Please see the above flyer for additional details.

If you place your order, we will expect you to pay for the shirt. Any unclaimed shirts takes money from our checkbook, so please plan to pay and pick them up in August.

We are taking orders via our email account (gwinnettbekkeepers@gmail.com) and will also have a sign up sheet at our July meeting. Be sure to state you size and desired shirt (Grey or Yellow).

We had a great turnout for our picnic in June. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and lots of sweet treats made everyone happy and full! The weather was great and Rancho Alegre turned out to be a great location for the party again. We met several newbies that will join our club in July.

For our July meeting Virginia Webb will teach us about teaching kids about Beekeeping. I'm sure we will have an embarrassing role play experience from Virginia. We always enjoy having us visit our club and educating everyone.

Dave Collins, president of the Gwinnett Beekeepers shares this recipe:

Harvest Honey Fruit Spread/Jam

Process in boiling water canner
Yield ~5 half-pints (or 10 4-oz jelly jars)

Ingredients

- 4 C total thoroughly crushed fruit: (can use frozen fruit if thaw first)
- 4 C strawberries OR
- 2 C strawberries, 1 C blueberries, 1 C peaches
- OR
- 2 1/2 C strawberries, 1 1/2 C blueberries
- 1 pkg. (1 3/4 oz) powdered pectin (SureJell)
- 1 3/4 to 2 C honey
- 2 TBSP ReaLemon lemon juice

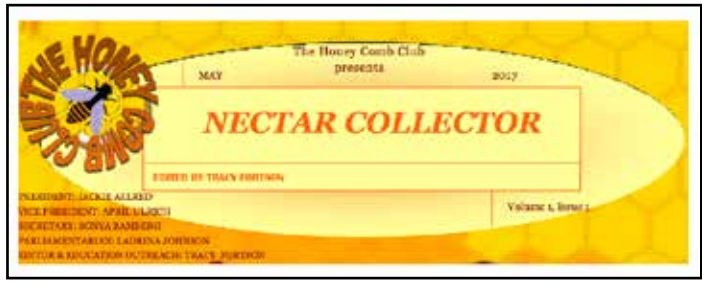
Directions

Combine crushed fruit, lemon juice, and pectin in heavy saucepan. Bring to full, rolling boil over medium- high heat, then cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Add honey and ReaLemon. Return to full rolling boil and cook for 10 minutes, stirring slowly and constantly. The jam will foam at first, then it will subside, and when ready will feel thick and sticky when stirred. (optional: can add 1/2 tsp butter to decrease foaming.)

Remove pan from heat and skim off foam.

Use Ball Blue Book for boiling-water bath technique. Ladle into hot sterilized half-pint canning jars, leaving 1/4 inch headspace. Seal and process for 10 minutes. Remove jars and let cool to seal.



GBA welcomes the newly formed **Honey Comb Club!** This club is unique as it's the first bee club operating within a prison facility in Georgia! (Perhaps the nation?)

Lee Arrendale State Prison of the Georgia Department of Corrections is a women's prison located in unincorporated Habersham County, Georgia, near Alto. Its beekeeping program was started in 2016 and 15 students passed the Certified Beekeeper test. Six of the Certified beekeepers have begun teaching and mentoring a new class of 10 beekeepers.

The Honey Comb Club provides a way for all the Certified beekeepers to continue learning about bees regardless of whether they are continuing as mentors to the new class.

They have published an impressive newsletter called The Nectar Collector. Please read the first two issues by clicking [here](#).

Kelley Campbell will be the speaker for July's meeting. The Honey Comb Club needs speakers for upcoming meetings, so if you'd like to speak to a welcoming and appreciative group, contact [Julia Mahood](#).



Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer. To see the list, [click here](#)



July Meetings



Club News

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association	TBD		Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Drive	Jasper GA 30143
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	Virginia Webb: Teaching beekeeping to children	Tues. July 11 at 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church, building B	
CEBA	Bill Owens	Monday July 10 at 6pm	Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge	Savannah, GA
Chattooga Beekeepers	Randy Rolen: Entering the Honey Show	Tuesday July 11 at 7pm	Ag Building, 32 Middle School Rd	Summerville GA 30747
Clark Hill Bee Club	Dr. Zach Kelehear Dean of Education at AUGUSTA University & his wife Dr. Karen Heid	Monday July 3 at 7pm		Appling GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	TBD		Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Brian Drebber Topic: Sylvanian Hives	Thursday July 27 at 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus, Cumming GA	
Heart of Georgia	Summer Break - no meeting			
Lake County Beekeepers Association	Varroa treatment methods	Monday July 17 at 6:30pm	UGA/4H Building, 2534 Augusta Highway	Sparta GA 31087
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association	Jennifer Berry: Current oxalic research	Wednesday July 12 at 7 PM	Atlanta Botanical Gardens	Atlanta GA
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association	TBD		Chow Time Chinese Buffet 418 Northside Dr E	Statesboro, Georgia, GA 30458
Oglethorpe County Bee Club	Jim Alexander - beekeeping tips and tricks	Monday July 17 at 7-8:30PM	Oglethorpe County Farm Bureau	Crawford (Hwy 78) GA
TARA	Keif Schleifer - Beekeeper's role in minimizing bee exposure to pesticides	Monday July 17 at 7pm	Kiwanis Bldg. 752 Main Street	Forest Park GA
Tri-State Bee Association	TBD		Dade County Agriculture Building, 114 Pace Drive	Trenton GA 30751
Troup County Assoc of Beekeepers	Arthur English - beehive robbing	Monday 7pm		
West Georgia Beekeepers Association	Home-Made-Gadgets and Crafts	Monday July 24: mentoring 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm	American Legion: 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway	Douglasville, GA



AUGUST 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sure you are all looking forward to seeing the winner of the license plate design. We are still in process of selection, but we are close. The artists for the top three choices will be taking feedback from the judges shortly and will be asked to address the suggestions by revising their plate slightly. After that, the judges will go through a second selection round. Then we will announce the winner. The top three receive cash prizes, and we have a small gift for each of the participants to reward their efforts.

Our meeting planning for the October meeting is going well. Julia Mahood is again bringing her artistic talent to our brochure. Did you know that her designs for our program are her original creations? She doesn't use templates in a publishing program, but rather composes her own work. We are so lucky to have her talent to make our program look so special.

Randy Oliver, our keynote speaker, will be giving three talks and a breakout. His first talk on Friday is on varroa management. In the afternoon on Friday, he will speak about the use of oxalic acid. On Saturday he is giving a breakout on how to read honeycombs and Saturday afternoon he will end our conference by talking about how the issues of the times - GMO crops, climate change, pesticides, changes in agricultural practices, etc. - impact the life and times of the honey bee.

The breakout talks from people in Georgia will be terrific. Tom Rearick is speaking about how to keep your neighbors from killing your bees. Bill Dunn will be doing a breakout on how to manage a hive that goes queenless. A Master Gardener from Atlanta, Rena Sartain, will talk to us about how to plant our garden for honey bees. Gina Gallucci will help clubs learn how to boost their financial resources. Steve Esau, a new Master Beekeeper and new speaker at GBA, will give a talk on basic honey bee biology. And there are many more speakers and much to learn. If you haven't registered yet, [click here](#).

The GBA fall meeting includes our officer elections for all of the officer positions and two board of director positions. Voting will be held on Friday and Saturday, with the results announced on Saturday. According to our bylaws, you must be present at the meeting to vote.

It's not too late to nominate yourself or someone you think would be good in a position (of course, I assume you would talk to them first!). There are two directors who are both in the northern half of the state, Randy Rolen and Derrick Fowler, whose terms are up. So far the nominated folks who want to run to fill their positions are all from the east coast. If you beekeepers in the northern part of the state want to be represented on the board, please consider nominating yourself.

Finally, I am in the process of putting together a list of items for the Board to discuss at the board meeting on Thursday evening. We officers on the Board represent all of you, so if anyone in GBA has an issue that you would like me to consider putting on the agenda for the Board to address, please [write me](#).

Linda Tillman
GBA President



YOU MAY BE A BEEKEEPER IF...

*You have
four
different
honey
containers
in the
cabinet.*

-Rick Moore



You might be a beekeeper if...

Your response to questions always begins with - "well it depends..."

You purchase a bail of pine straw but have no intentions of landscaping.

Your neighbors call the Fire Dept., while inspecting hives, thinking the overwhelming amount of smoke indicates a small fire nearby.

"Sting-kill External Anesthetic" vials are found in your vehicle, garage and kitchen.

You actively advise your friends and family to avoid big box stores selling flowers with neonicotineoids labels.

Everyone begs you for honey.

A pile of scrap wood produces visions of new hives dancing in your head.

You PROUDLY wear a swollen face to your office job.

You refer to your hives as, "My Girls."

--Sterling Tucker



You can talk family and friends into standing in the middle of a swarm! Especially when none of them are beekeepers... Gail Dean



You might be a beekeeper if

*-you smell like a campfire in the middle of the summer
-you have to hire a dog sitter and a bee feeder to go on vacation*

By Kelley Campbell

Your freezer has more bee hive frames in it than food!

-Emily Heath



Your kitchen looks like this...

-Rick Moore



You have queen pheremone in the freezer beside your frozen peas. -Julia Mahood



Your centerpiece is sourwood blossoms!

-Gail Dean

Junior Beekeepers

By Ed Hoehn, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

MABA's Jr Beekeeping sessions were started in 2013 by Cindy Hodges, Master Craftsman and Past President of MABA, and Melissa Bondurant, Master Beekeeper. They started with a couple of sessions each summer with upwards of ten youth per Session. Shortly thereafter, Holly McConnell, current President of MABA, took over the JBK Sessions for the next two years. Ed Hoehn, Certified Beekeeper and working toward Journeyman, took over the JBK Sessions two years ago.

JBK has grown to four sessions in the summer with a maximum of 15 youth each session. Every session has been sold out over the past two years except for one. We try to have at least four certified beekeeping volunteers to assist each session. The age group is between 6-13 years old. We start at 10 am and finish around 3 pm; a full day for all especially for the volunteers!

The day begins with a power point presentation with the history of beekeeping and going through the basics of beekeeping, bee anatomy, diseases, bee communication, by products and the positive things that pollinators offer society. We then give the youth the necessary tools to build their own bee frame that they can color and personalize to take home as a souvenir. After burning off a little energy we go into a "show and tell". We have an observation hive to look at the workers, drones and hopefully find a queen. They also are able to see capped honey, brood, eggs and larvae. We have a full hive to learn the different parts in it. We display the various tools of a beekeeper and how we use the tools. Additionally we discuss the anatomy of the bee, diseases and how those diseases affect the bee and the colony. We present the byproducts of honeybees.

After lunch we will "suit up" the youth and open an active beehive and give each child a chance to hold a frame full of bees. We discuss various aspects of what we are seeing in the live hive. If there are any drones we let the children hold a drone.

We then let the students extract two frames of honey. They will actually uncap the comb

and spin the frames to extract the honey, of course that leads us to eating some of the comb and honey.

Every child goes home with the bee frame they made, a certification of completion to being a Junior Beekeeper, and a goody bag with their own little bear of honey.

We do offer private JBK Sessions with a minimum of ten children. The challenge is to get enough volunteers to support these sessions since they usually want to do it during the work week.

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a young child being brought in by their parents, and you can see the child thinking, "why did their parents ever sign me up for this silly class, I don't even like BEES!" By the time they leave they are totally psyched with what they learned and they actually held honey bees without getting stung. We have even had some kids return the following year with a friend!

I can't think of a better way to help educate kids and spread the good word about our honeybees and pollinators in general.



KEEPING BEES AT SCHOOL

By Linda Tillman

Whenever I give a bee talk, I always start by stating the old adage: "If you ask ten beekeepers a question, you'll get at least twelve different answers because beekeeping is as much an art as it is a science and there isn't just one way to keep bees." So going into an ongoing beekeeping situation, it's a pretty good bet that my way of keeping bees may not jive with the norm already established.

Recently I was thrilled to become the new beekeeper at SPARK Elementary on Ponce de Leon in Atlanta. They have a rooftop garden and have had bees there for a few years. Their ongoing beekeeper left for the army. My grandchildren go to SPARK, so I am delighted to take this opportunity to help at the school.

On my first visit I went with the old beekeeper. The rooftop is intensely hot and there are three hives: two regular ten frame hives and one observation hive with glass on both sides and no cover. The bees look really healthy and have survived at least three winters with no treatment, so they must have good genetics. But my methods are different than his so I looked at the hives and kept thinking silently about all that I would change.

Here's what the biggest hive looked like:



There are three interesting/upsetting (to me) things about this box.

What do you notice?

First the hive is directly on the ground - no cinder blocks - on a solid bottom board. Can you imagine how hot these bees are? They are bearding all out onto the ground.

Second, the top box has NO HAND HOLDS nor any handles and it is full of honey.

Third, the top box is coming apart - see the bees at the upper corner, protecting a wide opening in

the box.

I didn't have any help that day but I wanted to rescue the hive from the heat as best I could, given the situation. There is a second hive there, and it had an entirely empty box on top of it, so I pulled that box and added it to this hive to give more ventilation. I also put beer caps (yes, I carry them in my hive kit) on each corner of the inner cover to lift the top cover slightly. And then I left until I could come back with help.

Here's how the hive looked from the back when I left:



I returned with my son-in-law, Jeff, and the MABA hive lifter.

We moved the hive off of the solid bottom board and put cinder blocks in place. We placed a screened bottom board and a slatted rack on the cinder blocks and then lifted the hive again and moved it to its higher location. We then took each frame of honey out of the box with no handles and put the frames into one of the few ten frame medium boxes that I own (I use all eight frames). And we got rid of the handle-less box. Then we put the hive back together, including the top empty box and leaned the old bottom board against the hive entrance to allow the bees to walk into the hive.

The photo below was taken before we leaned the old bottom board up against the hive.

Hopefully these bees will be happier - they will certainly be cooler. And Jeff and I have a new beekeeping challenge to manage ten frame boxes on a hot, hot roof. We will return soon to take care of the second hive (also sitting on the ground).



GBA ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

By Brutz English, GBA Board of Directors

The GBA annual elections are coming up at the Fall Conference in October. We are still seeking candidates for all offices. If you, or someone you know, are interested in running for a GBA officer or Director position please contact one of the members of the Elections Committee. The committee members are Brutz English (brutzenGLISH@gmail.com or 770-843-2110), Broadus Williams (broadus2003@hotmail.com), and Kelley Campbell (kellygirl53@hotmail.com).



HONEY SHOW SEASON IS COMING!

As Fall approaches the GBA and many local clubs are making preparations for their respective honey shows. For many Georgia beekeepers, the honey crop is in, and we are enjoying the sweet rewards of our labors. For those of us interested in the fun and competition of honey shows, now it the time to be getting ready!

The GBA's Fall honey show is a showcase for all things honey and wax, while our Spring Artisan's Show is where we put our creativity and ingenuity on display. The GBA Honey Show will be October 6th at the fall Conference in Griffin, GA. The classes and rules for the GBA Fall Honey Show can be found at <http://www.ga-beekeeping.com/Documents/fallhoneyshow.pdf>

Most local clubs only have one annual show where the classes an rules might vary from club to club, but most of those local shows are held in the Fall of each year. If your local club is sponsoring a honey show this year, we would love to know about it. If you need any assistance with organizing or administering your local show, we would love to help you out. We can help you find information and resources for rules, classes, judges, ribbons... anything you might need. If your local club is hosting it's own show this year, please let us know by sending an email to our Honey Show Committee Chairman, Brutz English, at brutzenGLISH@gmail.com. We can provide you with loads of help to make sure your honey show is a sweet success.



*Ever see a two inch
long queen cell?
We're anxiously
awaiting the queen!*



Photo by Rick Moore

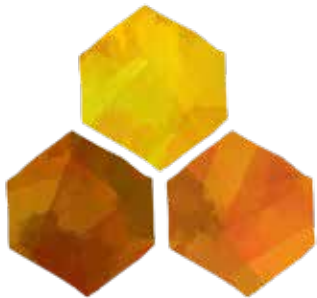




Caption Contest!

Send your clever words to:

gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer.

To see the list, [click here](#)

BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood

APITHERAPY



BEEKEEPING PRESENTATION

On June 20, 2017, Melanie Maxwell, past president of the Tara Beekeeping Club, presented an informational session to interested citizens of Fayette County about becoming a hobby beekeeper. Melanie gave information about hive construction, nuc installation, swarm capture, and general hive maintenance. Fresh honey from her hives was shared with those attending and instruction was given on how to establish a pollinator habitat. This class was organized with the local Fayette County Extension Service and information was shared concerning the honey beekeeping short course offered by the Tara Beekeeping club, which will be held in November 2017. Please visit the club web site for complete information.



GBA president Linda Tillman recently had a humorous email exchange concerning electric fencing and grandchildren...

I have bees in north Georgia on a friend's farm. He recently emailed me:

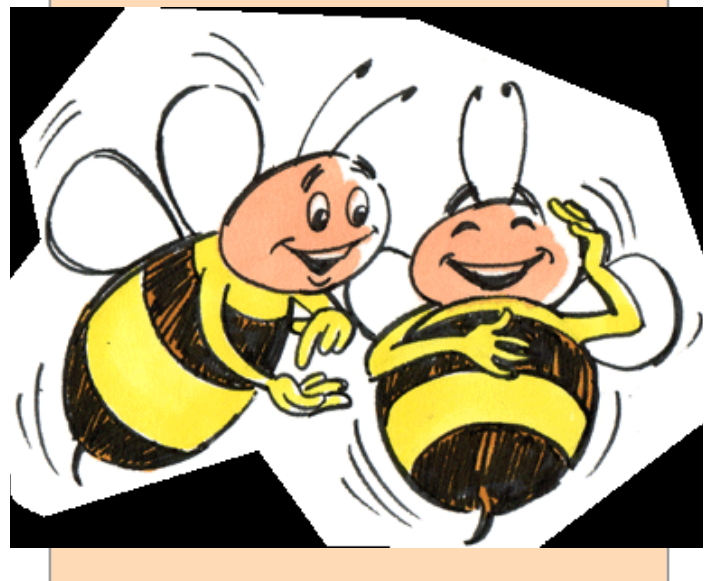
Linda, I have a friend looking to get rid of an unused electric fence. Would you have any use for an electric fence to protect the bees, either here or somewhere else that you're keeping bees. Let me know thanks R

I responded:

I don't know how they work. They are supposed to keep away bears but what if a grandchild touched it? The bees wouldn't be worth that! L

His response:

Linda, electrocuting a grandchild is a small price to pay for keeping the bears out. The shock is rarely fatal and will teach a life lesson. R



It's still swarm season!

By Rick Moore and Anita Curry

Swarm season is early spring, right? Oh ya, and all the way through July too in middle Georgia!

Recently through a friend of a friend in a Facebook posting we heard of a swarm of bees on a stop sign post. This was Friday night. Excitedly we emailed the friend asking where the swarm was as we wanted to go get it. Of course. Saturday morning we still had not heard back from the friend. By now that swarm was gone and had found a new home, we believed. You would too, right?



Fast forward another full day to Sunday evening. The friend texted, the first friend said the swarm was still there. What? A three day old swarm? Still there?

Quickly I grabbed my phone, checked the location in Mapquest, loaded the truck and drove the 13 miles to capture an easy swarm.

The drive went off the pavement and for two miles down those Georgia red clay farm roads. We were WAY out in the country, with thousands of acres of cotton fields all around us. When we arrived, we were not disappointed. The swarm was indeed there, and it was a nice one.

We've done this before, so Anita and I each knew our tasks. With a spray bottle of sugar water and a nuc, fifteen minutes later the swarm was ours.

The lesson here is to chase the swarms, be they a few hours old, or a few days; you just might be pleasantly surprised.



"He who tries to solve all the problems of beekeeping will find it takes a little longer than a lifetime. It may be viewed, first as a science having for its object the attainment of the correct knowledge of all that pertains to the life, habits and instincts of the honeybee; and secondly, as a practical art, which regards all the attainments thus made and to be made, as the only reliable foundation of successful management."

American Bee Journal 1 (1861)

MARY'S MUSINGS—ABSCONDMENT

BY MARY CAHILL-ROBERTS, GBA PAST PRESIDENT

This is something we all have dealt with! Whether we admit to it or not. One week the bees are thriving the next they are just gone. There are several reasons the bees leave which include:

- Frequent Disturbance (oft by a new beekeeper)
- Hive too hot or cold - poor odor inside the hive (glue, paint)
- Hive too humid or dry
- Too much or little ventilation
- Lack of water
- Lack of forage
- Too many parasites, pesticides
- Overpopulation (often called swarming)
- Agro chemicals
- Large Animal Raids
- Old comb time to go
- Genetics
- Fire

Bees need a warm dry space with plenty of ventilation, right temp and humidity to survive and thrive. There are things you can do to help your bees thrive and continue to produce honey.

- Minimize disturbance, do not check hive all the time
- Raise the hive off the ground and fence off to help protect from animals
- Provide ventilation
- Maintain humidity in the area
- Block strong winds
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods to reduce pests
- Provide adequate space
- Provide water
- Attend beekeeping meetings
- Minimize chemical use in the hive
- Encourage neighbors to plant bee forage
- Do not take all the honey
- Join GBA

Whatever the reason, bees will abscond at times. This is an indication of something that is wrong. So check your hives. Call an experienced beekeeper to help problem solve. Take pictures and talk with others about techniques or ideas that might be helpful to prevent this from happening in the future.

We are going to have a baking contest at the Fall Meeting!

This is not to be confused with the baked item categories which are part of the Spring Artisan's Show, nor is this contest part of the annual Honey Show which will be held at the Fall Meeting. Rather, this is a complimentary element to both existing competitions, and a creative new competitive event for our members to take part in!

There's going to be a dessert social on Friday evening at the Fall Conference. Contestants can bring their entries by the venue before the social starts, and we will let everyone try them out during the party. The winning recipe will be decided by "people's choice." The winning entry will be awarded a blue ribbon, and will be designated as the *Baked Item* in the Spring Artisan's show! Details regarding time and location of turn in will be provided once the Conference agenda has been set. Please contact Brutz English (brutzenGLISH@gmail.com or 770-843-2110) with any questions.

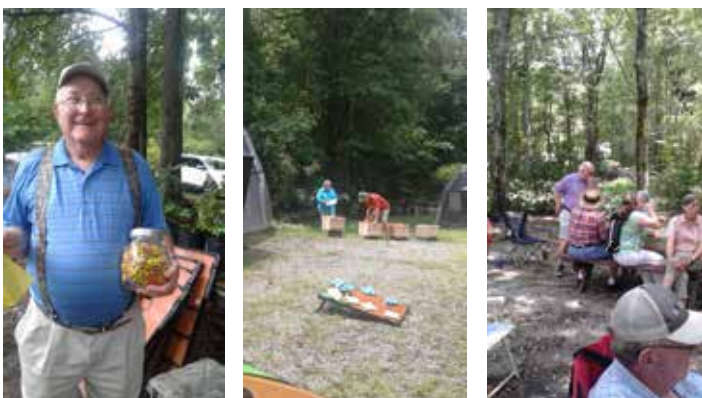
The rules are as follows:

- 1) Entrants must be a GBA member in good standing.
- 2) There is NO limitation on the number of entries per entrant.
- 3) There should be NO potentially identifying marks visible on any portion of any entry. Contest officials will mark and document all entries.
- 4) An entry is two (2) identical examples of the same baked item. One example is to be presented in-tact, and un-portioned (as for formal presentation). The second is to be divided into individual serving portions, at the discretion of the entrant (with a minimum of 8 servings).
- 5) A 4" x 6" white card on which the recipe (including ingredients and procedure) is written must accompany each entry. Entrants name should not be on card.
- 6) Entries will be judged on the following criteria: a) use of honey in the finished item; b) simplicity & clarity of the recipe; c) taste; and d) visual presentation.
- 7) The winning entry will be awarded a Blue Ribbon, and will be the designated as the "Baked Item" at the GBA Spring Artisan's Show.

Club News



fore the actual count. The winner of this contest was Max Leggett. There was a jar full of Bit of Honey candy which we had to guess how many were in the jar. This was won by Earl Cosgrove. We had a lot of good food and camaraderie. The winners of the different games each won a one deep super hive without bees.



West Georgia Beekeepers Association had their 3rd annual picnic on Saturday, July 22, at Triple Creek Nursery. It was bitterly sweet news because this was the last time we will be able to have our picnics at Triple Creek Nursery, because the nursery is up for sale. Everyone had a great time playing the games. This is the first time for so many games. We had the smoker lighting contest with everyone using the same fuel provided by the judges. The smoker lasting the longest was won by Ravenel Ingman. The seed spitting contest was who could spit the watermelon seed the farthest. This contest was won by Doug Hutwagner. Then we had a contest to see who could guess the weight of four different hives with each having different weights. This contest was won by Earl Cosgrove. We then had a bean toss game. Each person had 4 practice throws be-

At the June meeting of the **Tara Beekeepers Association**, Brutz English gave a thorough presentation on How to Prepare for a Honey Show. He provided information about every class and category for our state honey shows, and introduced us to new ones we will see at the GBA meeting in the fall.

Brutz is a Georgia Master Beekeeper, Certified Welsh Honey Judge, President of the Potato Creek Beekeepers, and Northern Dist. Director of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. He is also the founder of Liberty Hill Honey Company, LLC.

Before starting his presentation, Brutz noted that he laid the foundation for his career in beekeeping after taking the Beekeeping Short Course given by the Tara Beekeepers not too long ago. Welcome back, Brutz - we are so

proud of you for all that you have achieved!

Tara Beekeepers Association will hold their "Children's Short Course" on Saturday, August 19, 2017, from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. The course will be conducted at Reynolds Nature Preserve, located at 5665 Reynolds Road,

Morrow, Ga. 30260. For more Information: www.tarabeekeepers.org.

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club will host its Annual Honey Bee Jamboree along with the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association on Saturday, August 19th, (National Honey Bee Day!) at the Farm Bureau in Crawford, GA. The BBQ and potluck (11 to 2pm) will include a honey competition and raffle prizes.

Forsyth Beekeepers Club held their annual Disease and Disorder Day last month. Bill Dunn, Andy Bailey, Butch Shelton, Nicholas Weaver, and Joe Bannister helped guide fellow beekeepers through recognizing pests and diseases and methods of management.

Students walked away with a better understanding of mite counts and recounts post treatment(s) and how to avoid Varroa bombs. Nosema was seen under a microscope, and an educational AFB frame was presented so keepers can recognize the signs and smell.

All in all it was one of our best classes of the year.

We at the **Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association** want to notify you that we are having the : First Annual CEBA Welsh Honey Show on October 9th, 2017 at Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge, Savannah. Entries will be accepted from 12 noon till 6 pm - firm. Bear Kelly is our keynote speaker that night and the judging will occur during his presentation. There will be 3 classes of extracted honey judged: Light, Amber & Dark AND a Black Jar category. Please see our website for the rules of the Honey Show and eligibility criteria.

Beekeepers of Gwinnett County had the pleasure of having Virginia Webb as our monthly speaker at the July meeting. She did an excellent job teaching our members about Teaching Kids About Bees. Her program was geared toward young kids with a nice interactive touch. We had club members "volunteer" to be the worker bees, drones, and the queen. Each was dressed appropriately and assigned their responsibilities. It was not only educational but a chance to be entertained by our volunteers! Virginia's topic has sparked interest among our members to speak with school children interested in bees.

In August, David Bailey of Ally Bee's Honey, will be speaking to us about Hive Management. David has been a long time member of our club and is a semi-professional beekeeper along with his day job of ministry. You can find Ally Bee's Honey in all of the local stores. His family has been keeping bees for decades. We look forward to hear David share his wisdom.

Please remember to place your orders for our Club t-shirt. You will need to send an email to Gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com specifying the size and whether you want the women's or unisex cut. The cost is \$15 each. The money is due when you pick them up at our August meeting. All orders must be placed by July 31st.

We hope to see everyone wearing our shirt at the Gwinnett County Fair when you are working the booth.



August Meetings



Club News

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association	Ray Civitts –Quarterly view on hive management	Thurs, Aug 10, 7pm	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Drive	Jasper, GA 30143
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	David Bailey-Hive Management	Tues, Aug 8,7pm	Hebron Baptist Church, building B	
CEBA	TBD	Mon, Aug 14, 6pm	Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge	Savannah, GA
Chattooga Beekeepers	TBD	Tues, Aug 8, 7pm	Ag Building, 32 Middle School Rd	Summerville GA 30747
Clark Hill Bee Club	TBD	Mon, Aug 7, 7pm		Appling, GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	TBD	Mon, Aug 14, mentoring at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	Bill Dunn-Winterizing colonies	Thurs, Aug 24, 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Swap Meet	Tues, Aug 15, 7pm	The Perry Arts Center, 1211 Macon Rd.	Perry, GA
Lake County Beekeepers Association	TBD	Mon, Aug 21, 6:30pm	UGA/4H Building, 12534 Augusta Highway	Sparta, GA 31087
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assn	Jerry Hayes	Wed, Aug 9, 7pm	Atlanta Botanical Gardens	Atlanta, GA
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association	TBD		Chow Time Chinese Buffet 418 Northside Dr	Statesboro, Georgia, GA 30458
Oglethorpe County Bee Club	TBD	Mon, Aug 21, 7-8:30PM	Oglethorpe County Farm Bureau	Crawford (Hwy 78), GA
TARA	Guest Speaker: Jennifer Berry	Mon,Aug 21, 7pm	Kiwanis Bldg., 752 Main Street	Forest Park, GA
TARA	Children's Short Course	Saturday, Aug 19th, 2017, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Road	Morrow, Ga. 30260
TARA	Beekeepers Short Course	Saturday, November 4th, 8AM-4PM	Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street	Forest Park, Ga. 30297
Tri County Beekeepers	Jennifer Berry - oxalic acid	Tues, Aug 14, 7pm	Gillsville City Park	Gillsville Ga
Tri-State Bee Association	TBD		Dade County Agriculture Building, 114 Pace Drive	Trenton, GA. 30751
Troup County Assoc of Beekeepers	Brian Maddy-UGA extension agent-Plants that benefit Pollinators	Mon, Aug 21, 7pm	Troup County Cattlemans Assoc. building	Lagrange, GA
West Georgia Beekeepers Association	Alan Bradd - Varroa/Pests/Winter Prep	Mon, Aug 28,mentoring 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm	American Legion, 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway	Douglasville, GA



Dear Aunt Bee,

At many local clubs, members are encouraged every single month of the year to go home and feed their bees. How are we then different than China? We complain that China dilutes their honey with sugar syrup or corn syrup. If the honey in honey shows comes from hives that have been fed every month with sugar syrup, is there a way for the honey judge to tell that the honey is not pure honey?

Signed,

Honey Purist

Dear Purist,

Of course when bees take sugar water and they store it in the comb for later consumption it will get mixed in with the honey when you extract it. However, bees generally will not take the sugar water during a honey flow as you have probably experienced. In America, we do not feed our bees corn syrup (you shouldn't anyway) because you do not know the source of it or what was used to help the corn grow. High Fructose Corn Syrup may contain Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) which is poison to bees. It is created when the HFCS gets heated even while driving down the highway in the tanker truck. I have found that when using the analog refractometer while checking for moisture content a brown haze under the scale which represents the presence of HFCS. Although it is not scientific, I have tested it many times and found it to be true. So, you should not have to feed your bees during a honey flow while they are producing honey and if you leave more honey on the hive (instead of robbing all of it) your need to supplement with sugar will be reduced and therefore your honey will be the purest. In addition, your bees will be healthier by consuming honey instead of donuts!

Signed,

Aunt Bee

Thanks to Bear Kelley for being Aunt Bee this month!

Next Up...

On the following pages you'll find the program for the GBA fall meeting! Due to ongoing class scheduling at the venue, the breakout sessions are not assigned yet, but that info will be coming next month. Read on and get excited about all you will learn in October in Griffin!



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS



FALL
MEETING
2017

2017 OFFICERS

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Vice President
Gina Gallucci

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Jane Quattlebaum

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Paul Berry

Newsletter Editors
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OCTOBER 6 *and* 7
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Randy Oliver owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs, and honey. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biological sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order not only to broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website: www.ScientificBeekeeping.com.

Since 2000, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her extension duties include teaching beekeeping to people from all walks of life, including those in Central and South America, and to those imprisoned in Georgia's maximum security prisons. Jennifer is a frequent columnist for *Bee Culture* magazine and a few across the pond. On weekends and nights, she operates Honey Pond Farm, a honey bee venture that sells quality nucleus colonies and where she teaches how to raise superior queens.



Dr. Keith Delaplane is Professor of Entomology, Walter B. Hill Fellow, and Director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Throughout his 27 years at UGA, he has conducted numerous research projects, written countless articles, supervised a number of graduate students and been author and editor of several books. Dr. Delaplane is also a much sought after speaker on an array of honey bee topics.



Tammy Horn Potter started Coal Country Beeworks in 2008, working with surface mine companies to get more habitat in eastern KY. In 2014, Tammy became the Kentucky state apiarist. In this role, she has worked with Green Forests Work to receive a NRCS conservation grant (reforestation with nectar/pollen producing trees), a USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey grant, and helped initiate a queen production association in KY. She was the 2014 President of EAS and author of *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation* and *Beeconomy: What Women and Bees teach us about Local Trade and Global Markets* (both published by University Press of Kentucky).



Rusty Burlew is a master beekeeper from the state of Washington. She has been fascinated by honey bees since childhood and, in recent years, has become enthralled with the native bees that share pollination duty with honey bees. She has an undergraduate degree in agronomic crops and a master's degree in environmental studies. Rusty owns a website called HoneyBeeSuite.com and is the director of the Native Bee Conservancy in Washington. Besides writing for the website, she has published in *Bee Craft*, *Bee Culture*, and *Bee World* magazines, frequently speaks to groups about bee conservation, and has worked as an expert witness in bee sting litigation.

Kerry Owen was voted the 2016 South Carolina Farmer Of The Year. He has extensive knowledge of beekeeping businesses as he is the founder of: Bee Well Honey Farm & Supply, Bee Well Honey & Natural Market, Bee Well Honey Bee Supply, Bee Well Honey Bottling & Distribution, Bee Well Land Improvements LLC, and Bee Well Beauty Products. Kerry is very active in beekeeping organizations and is currently the President-elect of the SCBA.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:30-8:15 President's Breakfast

A meeting of all attending local club presidents.

9:00 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:15-10:00 Randy Oliver: A new era in varroa management

Varroa continually develops resistance to the synthetic miticides, forcing beekeepers to change their ways. Randy will cover the biology and population dynamics of varroa, viruses, and bees, and what is necessary to manage the seasonal buildup of the mite. A rundown on management techniques and the pros and cons of our available treatment options. Includes a discussion of some problems inherent with hobby "treatment-free" beekeeping.

10:00-10:45 Tammy Horn: Reforestation in Appalachia with pollinator habitat

Green Forests Work just planted the two millionth tree on a reclaimed surface mine site in Eastern KY. Working with Coal Country Beeworks and other nonprofits such as Appalachian Headwaters, Green Forests Works is providing a new habitat for pollinators in a region that needs economic development. Forest-based beekeeping is alive and well in the 21st century, and in her opinion, the future of beekeeping depends on forests, not forage.

10:45-11:15 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

11:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions A

12:00- 12:45 Lunch

12:45 Honey Show awards announced

1:00-1:45 Rusty Berlew: People, plants, and pollinators

This presentation explores the reasons why our native bees are in trouble and what we—individuals, farmers, and governments—can do to help.

1:45-2:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

2:00- 2:45 Breakout Sessions B

2:45-3:15 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey Auditorium*

3:15-4:00 Jennifer Berry: Oxalic acid for varroa control – east coast trials

4:00-4:45 Randy Oliver: Oxalic acid tips

As varroa develops resistance to the synthetic miticides, beekeepers must learn to use alternative treatments. Oxalic acid has a long history of successful use, and can be applied by different methods (dribble, sublimation, extended-release). Tips from someone who has used oxalic acid for nearly two decades.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:30-8:30 Dessert reception with live and silent auctions located in the Pavillion

8:00-10:00 Honey Show entries accepted in Room 111 of the Student Learning Center

10:00-12:00 Honey Show Judging

12:45 Honey Show awards announced in Stuckey Auditorium

1:00- 4:45 Honey Show open for viewing, SLC room 111

6:30-8:30 Honey Show open for viewing, SLC room 111

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00-10:00 GBA Business meeting

10:15-10:45 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

10:45-11:30 Breakout Sessions C

11:30-12:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to lunch*

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Raffle drawings and officer election results

1:00-1:45 Keith Delaplane, PhD: Bees in nature and what they can teach us

1:45-2:30 Kerry Owen: Beekeeping agri-tourism
Turn your business into an event.

2:30- 3:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

3:00-3:45 Breakout Sessions D

3:45-4:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey Auditorium*

4:00-4:45 Randy Oliver: The times they are a changin'

Bees are continually being forced to evolve due to environmental changes and introduced parasites. In turn, beekeeping, and the business of beekeeping must also evolve. An overview that puts the recent evolution of beekeeping and agriculture into perspective--how parasites, climate change, changing agricultural practices, beekeeping practices, world trade, pesticides, and GMOs fit into the picture of today's state of the honey bee.

8:00-11:30 Honey Show open for viewing,
SLC room 111

11:30-12:45 Pick up honey show entries

*Please help our
honey show
volunteers by
promptly picking up
your entries during
the allotted time*



Breakout Speakers



Bill Dunn became a beekeeper in the “Golden Age” of bees (before mites). It wasn’t until the mite invasion and the subsequent loss of all but one colony that he decided that genetics, not chemicals, was the future answer to bee problems. Bill is still searching for those “perfect” queen mothers.

Kevin lives in Athens, GA with his wife and two children, ages 3 and 13.



Marguerite Matherne is a PhD student in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech. She began studying honey bees as an undergraduate student and has continued her research into grad school. She is interested in studying how honey bees manipulate pollen during the pollination process. She also studies how mammals use their tails to deter biting insects from landing. Her honey bee research has been featured in *Business Insider* and *Discovery Channel Canada*.



Steve Esau started keeping bees in 2011 with two hives and a “Little Bee Project” was started. That “Project” is now ~100 production hives and nucs which are managed in the Metro Atlanta area. Steve has a degree in animal sciences from Kansas State University and obtained his GA Master Beekeeper’s certificate in 2017. Steve is a member of GBA and is active in his local bee club where he mentors new beekeepers and serves on the board of directors.



Rick Moore credits honey bees for bringing him many good things in addition to honey: a wife and a job to name but two. As president of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn, he was introduced to the idea of beekeeping behind prison walls. After working as a volunteer at Dooly State Prison for over a year helping to setup the beekeeping program there, Rick became a GED Instructor at the prison. Now in addition to managing 40 hives with his wife, he acts as a mentor and liaison for the beekeeping program at Dooly.



Brutz English is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh honey judge. He is the owner of the Liberty Hill Honey Company, and he has held a Georgia Department of Agriculture honey house license since 2013. He is a graduate of Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law (2000).



Keith Fielder 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.



Bill Owens is a 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.



Gina Gallucci has been learning about bees for twelve years. She served as president of MABA, worked on the MABA Short Course, chairs the swarm calls and answers questions on the MABA phone. She served as GBA newsletter editor and is currently GBA vice president. When not working bees, she enjoys sharing GBA business with friends, travel, reading, painting, and is a long-time yoga practitioner. She pays for her bee hobby by working as a self-employed construction recruiter.



Tom Rearick is a UGA Master Beekeeper, the founder of the BeeHacker.com blog, and webmaster of the Metro Atlanta Beekeeping Association. Tom lives in Roswell, Georgia. His background in biomedical engineering and computer science makes for a unique perspective on honey bees.



Kevin Lamons grew up in East Tennessee where he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a M.S. degree in agricultural economics. He has worked with the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service for 20 years. Kevin coordinates survey activities, analyzes data, and sets estimates related to bees and honey for the southern region which covers AL, FL, GA, and SC. He also travels to Washington, D.C. each spring to work on the national publication.



Rena Sartain is a Master Gardner and a certified Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA) member. She is employed with Pike Family Nurseries and has hosted the Master Gardner Internet radio show. She is a contributing writer to “Around The Park” magazine. She is also an artist and a life long Atlantan.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Reading the combs: Understanding bee biology over the course of a season • Randy Oliver

A summary of his series “Understanding Colony Buildup and Decline.” By acquiring a better understanding of the biology of bees, nutrition, parasites, and pathogens over the course of the season, and by learning to “read the combs,” the beekeeper can then make better informed management decisions adapted to his/her particular situation.

How to keep your neighbors from killing your bees • Tom Rearick

Bee kills from pesticide treatments are not new. What is new is a rational fear of the Zika virus and the rapid growth in commercial mosquito abatement franchises that feed on that fear. Many pesticide treatment companies spray and fog at all hours of the day, in all wind conditions, and use pesticides that are highly toxic to honey bees and other beneficial insects and aquatic life. Learn how you can help your neighbors fight Zika without also killing your bees and other beneficial insects and aquatic life.

Problems with queen bees • Bill Dunn

While a complete course on queen problems could easily take days we only have a few minutes. This class concerns the most frequently asked questions new beekeepers have about the “loss of their queen” and suggests easy ways for them to fix the problem.

Honey bee biology 101 • Steve Esau

A look at the basic anatomy of the worker bee and how it affects some of the decisions we make as beekeepers.

Fundamentals of organizing your beekeeping business • Brutz English

Why is setting up a business entity can be important; what you need to know before you get started; and where to go to get it done.

Dining out with Mother Nature - A menu for bees • Rena Sartain

A year round diet to attract honeybees in various areas of our state. From soup to nuts, annuals to perennials, shrubs and trees; we will discuss what keeps our bee population content and healthy. Bring your ideas and experience to share.

Beekeeping behind the prison wall • Rick Moore

Inmates are given a chance to learn the art and science of beekeeping while in prison due to a unique opportunity between the Georgia Department of Corrections and University of Georgia Bee Lab. Beekeeping can be very difficult behind the walls of prison, but the dedicated men and women teaching the inmates, and the desire and drive of the inmates to become Certified Beekeepers are making this program a success. Now, we need your help to grow the program.

Expanding your product line • Kerry Owen

Learn about a variety of honey related products to consider.

Creating a great junior beekeeping class • Bill Owens

Thinking of starting a junior beekeeping class? Already have a junior beekeeping school? Bill Owens goes through the pros, cons and lessons learned when he started the first GBA JR Beekeeper course in 2006 that ran until 2010.

USDA-NASS bee & honey annual estimation program and the census of agriculture • Kevin Lamons

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. producers are only a few examples. NASS is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

Honey Bee Health Coalition • Tammy Horn

Within four short years, the HBHC has provided a coalition of public and private sector agricultural stakeholders working to build consensus on policies aimed at leadership for honey bee health, including tools for monitoring varroa mites, guidance on forage and nutrition, and discussion on policy issues. Tammy is the Eastern Apiculture Society representative to the Coalition, and is happy to hear how best the HBHC can interface with EAS to provide more representation.

Women and bees • Tammy Horn

This is not a “Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus,” presentation as much as it is a conversation about the contributions women are making to the apiculture and building consensus for future actions. Throughout centuries, women have turned to apiculture as one of the safest spheres to exert leadership and provide an economic safety net for their loved ones. In the 21st century, women must address the age-old challenges to modify equipment, provide leadership in research, and shape civic policies to include pollinators.

Native bees for beekeepers • Rusty Burlew

Beekeepers are in a unique position to help all our pollinators, but most know little about native bees. This two part (45-minute) presentation reveals the lives of native bees by comparing them to honey bees. It also provides simple tips on identification.

Honey Judges Council • Brutz English

All judges, stewards, and show secretaries are encouraged to attend this session where we will review the rules of the honey shows and share information and insights about these important jobs.

Creamed honey • Keith Fielder

Learn the ins-and-outs of making this wonderful product for shows and as a product to add to your line.

How to gain financial resources for your Bee Club • Gina Gallucci

The challenge for all bee clubs is to fund meetings including renting space and paying for your speakers. Learn what has worked for other clubs and what you can apply to your fund raising. We will discuss various ways to bring in cash, build excitement, and develop more participation for your members.

What happens when bees brush their hair? • Marguerite Matherne

Did you know honey bees are covered in millions of hairs? Find out how bees use these hairs in the grooming process to remove the millions of pollen particles that accumulate during pollination.



SEPTEMBER 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GBA rests solidly on the shoulders of volunteers. Our officers are elected and serve at the will of the membership, but they each step up to the plate and agree to volunteer their time and effort. And running a state organization like this takes a lot of effort. All of your officers and members of the Board put in hours every week working on GBA business.

In addition we have a number of very active committees currently running under the GBA umbrella.

- The prison program is in full swing in five prisons. All of those programs need speakers and various other kinds of help.
- The legislative committee has been working hard on the license plate contest and the push to get a honey bee plate for Georgia. The numbers of people working on this project has expanded. When that project is fully up and running, the legislative committee will not sit down and twiddle their thumbs, but will take on something else with the legislature.
- The bylaws committee has been intensively working to revise the bylaws and we will vote on the revisions at the fall meeting.
- The meeting committee works all year long, planning for upcoming events, organizing activities at the event, planning the evening activities, coordinating the honey show, etc.
- The junior beekeeping committee is currently very small and might be quite active if it had more volunteers.
- The honey show committee arranges and manages the honey shows at our two conferences.

Every one of these committees could use volunteer help - let me know if you would like to be a more active part of GBA. Our **100th anniversary** as an organization is coming up and we will need lots of volunteers to help make that happen in a notable way. Do you have an idea for a project that you would like to help GBA do? Let me know and I'll try to find a way to support you in it.

Or, here's a thought: run for GBA office! We elect officers every year and last year had an exciting election because a number of people decided to throw their hats into the ring. You could too - working with the Board is a pleasure and you'll find that there are a lot of interesting projects in which to get involved.

What is the value of volunteering? I have loved it because I get to know beekeepers all over the state. I have gotten to be fast friends with beekeepers with whom I've worked on projects. I've learned from the people with whom I volunteer how to be better at the volunteer jobs I take on, and I've had a lot of fun with all of them.

Try it, you'll like it. All local clubs are run by volunteers - join in to help with a club activity and you'll learn a lot about yourself and make bee friends. And, of course, GBA could use your help. If you want to be more active in our state beekeeping organization and meet and work with beekeepers who are not in your local club, [get in touch with me](#) and I'll help you find a place to invest in GBA!

Linda Tillman
GBA President

STARRING...

by BJ Weeks

In January of 2017, I was contacted about doing a "Bee Necklace" for a movie, filming to be in February.

Upon asking the right questions, I found it to be a bee beard for the third sequel in a popular movie series filming here in Georgia.

The short version is, on April 3, 2017, I provided bees and created a bee beard on the star's stunt double for the movie *Pitch Perfect 3*. There were also several still shots taken with bees on equipment to be inserted into the production.

At 2:15 am on April 4th, I left the studio in Union City to head home.

Prior the above event, I had supplied equipment and rented bottled honey (which they later purchased) for the Netflix Season series of *Ozark*. It has been an interesting year and my bees have performed quite well in their parts. Now it looks like there may be more to come in the months ahead. All of this meshed in with raising queens, caring for 500 hives of bees, delivering honey to Publix stores in the Metro and Northeast Metro Atlanta area, and working with the Cherokee Beekeepers Club to equip beekeepers to understand their bees and keep them alive.



NOTICE OF UPCOMING ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

We will have an annual business meeting of the membership at the fall conference in October in Griffin at 9 AM on Saturday, October 7. The election results will be announced at 12:45 on Saturday rather than during the business meeting in order to allow people to vote on both Friday and Saturday mornings.

If you want to vote in the secret ballot election, and to vote on issues at the business meeting, you have to be a member in good standing. This means that you have to have your dues paid up for the next year. Everyone has a different renewal date, one year from when you last paid your dues.

To check on your renewal date, [please sign in with the email address](#) you use for GBA (the one where you get the newsletter). If you have forgotten your password, you can set a new one. Then you can see when your renewal date is and pay your dues if you need to.

We have a great conference planned and hope to see most of you there!

Droning on about drones *By Julia Mahood*

At the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in 2011 Debbie Delaney did a talk in which she described the unique life of drones and their mysterious drone congregation areas. I've been fascinated with them ever since. She described how one can find the drone congregation areas (DCAs) in your part of the world: walk around with a weather balloon filled with helium that has queen pheromone attached to it. Sounds simple enough!

Different parts of beekeeping strike different beekeepers—some of you find Zen in nailing frames together while I bloody my thumbs if forced to take on that challenge—and DCAs struck me, so I went home and ordered queen pheromone. When it came in the mail I went to the grocery store and purchased a Mylar birthday balloon—how different can it be from a weather balloon?—I quickly learned the answer to that. I proceeded to wander my neighborhood dragging the sad little birthday balloon behind me, queen pheromone uselessly dangling underneath. In addition to embarrassing my kids and confirming my neighbors suspicions that I was an oddball, I learned the hard way that the birthday balloon was painfully inadequate. While those suckers will float way up above the tree line when your toddler loses his grip (and then his temper), it will not float much higher than your head while you are walking. Sigh.

Years flew by without another try but I still gobbled up information about drones like candy. I began wondering if it would be possible to use the now ubiquitous mechanical drones to track the elusive comets of honey bee drones flying in their elusive DCAs.

I quickly realized that it was going to be a challenge to get the cameras on mechanical drones to focus on something flying around it. The first step would be to find a DCA and then bring the mechanical drone to the DCA and go from there. Hopefully this will give me a place to begin figuring out how to use mechanical drones to locate DCAs.

Living in Atlanta, Georgia Tech is just down the road and I asked Jennifer Leavey, PhD and head of the Urban Beekeeping Project for advice. She suggested that I research previous methods of finding DCAs, and meanwhile she would find some high-tech drone nerds to connect me with at Tech. (I was so excited!)

I downloaded all the research papers I could find about DCAs and drone behavior. They were fascinating, and at times entertaining. (One paper described how they painted a cigarette filter black and dangled it from the drone trap as a queen lure. Clearly this research took place in a time when more people smoked!

Many described a Williams drone trap—a conical contraption covered in netting. While a trap isn't necessary for finding DCAs it would be helpful for other fantasies I had for my future drone quest (marking the drones in my hives and then seeing in which DCAs they ended up). I'm craftsy, I could make one of these, no problem. Yes problem. These research papers aren't exactly like Pinterest posts. The way they described constructing them was not working for me so I made up my own trap.

It looked great.

There are geographical cues that DCAs share so after studying Google maps of the area surrounding my home apiary I came up with several places to start. Finally a day came when the weather was sunny, the air was still, and I had all my materials assembled. I even had a willing cohort, Courtney Waddley who just graduated from high school and is a fellow bee nerd.



First stop was Kroger to fill up the weather balloon with helium. The balloon lady was convinced that she couldn't fill it up because the opening is way too big for her equipment. She proceeded to show me how it wouldn't work while she filled up the balloon (yeah, it worked) grumbling all the while that it was using up an entire tank of helium. \$5.99 later we shoved the full weather balloon into my car and

headed over to a nearby soccer field where I was convinced the drones would be cruising for chicks. In the parking lot we attached the finely crafted Williams drone trap. Uh, it didn't even leave the ground. The creative efforts of which I was so proud resulted in a contraption way too heavy for the weather balloon to support.

Well, no big deal. We can still attach the queen pheromone and a couple of dowels painted black to mimic queens (I don't smoke) and off we went.

Drones fly between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. It was a calm day, perfect for dealing with a three meter diameter weather balloon flying 30 meters high, but it was 95° and without any breeze it felt like we were standing on the equator. We walked the soccer field for quite a while—it's a big field. We took turns manning the kite string and observing the balloon with binoculars. We saw lots of dragonflies but sadly, not a single honey bee.

Disappointed but not defeated, we went over (with permission) to a large home with a pond and sizable clear cut area. We slowly covered the whole place (without getting in a canoe to cover the pond) and,



nope, no flirty dudes there either.

After a quick trip to Chik-fil-A for fluids we hit the last spot, a condo development to the west of my apiary, 17 acres with spots of open areas surrounded by trees, and some surrounded by buildings. The only thing we saw there was an irritated real estate agent who suspected that we were her competitors, using a weather balloon on a kite line in order to... what exactly she imagined, I don't know. But it was 5:00 and even if the drones weren't done for the day, we sure were.

I was disappointed and not relishing the thought of walking the streets and trying to casually mosey into my neighbor's yards with my big red weather balloon, but figured I'd head out the next day and the next if possible, as long as the helium lasts. The next morning I discovered the balloon sadly laying on the ground. Apparently \$5.99 of helium only gets you so far.

It's been raining and windy this week, but I'll gather my courage again and keep trying, while continuing to affirm my neighbor's opinion of me as the crazy bee lady down the street.



Monarchs Across Georgia is hosting a Pollinator Symposium on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia.

Participants will take part in four presenter sessions, nature walks around the grounds of the monastery, and a demonstration of monarch tagging and testing for the OE parasite. Exhibitors will be on site with information. The Monastery's Abbey Garden Center will have pollinator plants, including native milkweeds, for sale.

For more information [go to their website by clicking here.](#)



Photo Gallery



These two frames came from the same hive. One frame has 15 capped queen cells, and the other has 21 capped queen cells. Wowser! Looks like we're going to be making lots of late summer splits.

-Rick Moore and Anita Curry



Dear Aunt Bee,

I was installing a newly purchased queen in an queenless nuc when she flew away! What will become of her? Will she return or die?

Signed,

Am I Queenless?

Dear Queenless,

I have heard of instances when a new queen is being released from her cage and she flies off. There is a chance that she may return to the hive, especially if they are "calling" for her. "Calling" is recognized by the loud fanning sound the bees make when they are queenless. Unfortunately,

the majority of the instances I have heard of introduced queens flying away, the queen was never seen again. There is a possibility that she could be called into a different colony that perhaps was queenless and maybe you'll come across her, but it is doubtful. The best way to avoid this situation altogether is to always let the bees themselves release the queen by eating out the candy plug in the queen cage. It takes over a month to produce a queen bee so it is worth the time to take the introduction of the queen slowly and carefully.

This is how I recommend queen introduction:

1. Make sure the bees you are introducing the queen to are queenless at least 12 hrs in advance. And check that there are no queen cells. The bees will prefer their own raised queen over your introduced one.
2. Place the queen cage in the brood area of the hive, leaving the cork plug or plastic cap in place.
3. I would check on the queen after 3-5 days to see how the bees are accepting her. They should not be looking like they are trying to bite/ chew/ sting. Non-acceptance will have an aggressive appearance.
4. If they appear to be accepting her, proceed. If not, stop here and look through the hive for queen cells you may have missed or eggs from a queen or even a virgin queen.
5. If they appear to be accepting her, then proceed to remove the cork plug or plastic cap that is covering the candy plug, so bees can begin to release the queen. If the candy is very hard, it is ok to help them out a bit by scraping some of the candy out or making a small hole in the candy.
6. I would go back in about 3 more days to make sure the queen was released from the cage.
7. If you just have to open the cage to release the queen, I would hold the cage VERY close to the brood frame and gently open the cage right above them, almost amid the frames and lay the cage on/ amid the frames so the queen can walk out onto the frames. But this is where you risk the chance of having a young, lively queen take flight instead.

There are also different styles of queen introduction cages that are worth trying. Just remember that when you are transferring the queen from her present cage to another, always do this inside! Even if you have to take her inside your house. If she flies, she will go toward a light source such as a window or light bulb. I have found it easier to re-catch her if she is on a window. Just gently scoop her in your hand or catch her wings. She is very unlikely to sting you.

Signed,

Aunt Bee



Thanks to Amy Weeks for being Aunt Bee this month! Amy is a Master Craftsman Beekeeper and queen breeder from West Monroe, Louisiana.

A TIP OF THE HAT By Linda Tillman

As president, I have the privilege of sitting on the standing committees so this year I have been hard at work on three committees: the Meeting Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Bylaws Committee.

I have worked with Julia Mahood on the Meeting Committee since the spring meeting in 2015. The fall conference will be the sixth conference she and I have organized. Julia is a talented artist and our programs are her personal design. She thinks situationally about each meeting and anticipates all of the problems before they actually happen. When we do run into a glitch, she puts her energy into turning lemons into lemonade. Gina Gallucci joined us this year and has blossomed as a negotiator and a scout. She has looked into many venues, trying to find the best places for our meetings. Jennifer Berry has contracted with our big-name speakers for the last couple of years, getting us people like Marla Spivak and Randy Oliver. GBA is so lucky to have these talented, energetic people creating great conferences for us.

The Legislative Committee is chaired by Gail Dean and Tim Doherty. Their big project this year has been the honeybee license plate. Our first task was to run a contest for a winning design. Gail and Tim worked hard to get this going. Gail is a true energizer bunny, with ideas and the push to make it happen. She has made calls, connected with legislators, and kept me on track. Tim has been a solid sidekick for her, with his ability to think outside the box and his perspective.

The Bylaws Committee has been an amazing experience. The members of the committee are Brutz English, Harvest Hoffman, Tim Hoffman and me. Brutz is a director on the board, president of several local clubs, works on the prison program, assists the meeting committee, and has touched many parts of the GBA working systems. Harvest is our webmaster and has fielded many questions from members, giving her a unique perspective of GBA members' needs. She has also been sitting on the Board as a nonvoting member and has that view as well. Tim Hoffman is an active member of the GBA who is running to be a director on the Board and is in the Coastal Empire club. Tim creates business documents at his work and brings that perspective to the revision. And me.

We are all strong personalities and we all are good writers. Can you imagine the power of such a group? Yet we have worked well together, created bylaws that we are proud of and hope you will be too. We've tried between us to understand the old bylaws, bring GBA into the 21st century, and cover all the issues. As often happens when volunteering, we've gotten to be friends and have seen each other's rough edges as well!

When I think of the wealth of energy and investment that the people working on all of these committees represent, I want to shout HOORAY and THANK YOU! Great job and a tip of the hat to all the members of these standing committees.



The Honey Bee Jamboree of the Oglethorpe County Bee Club and Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association was held on August 19th.



The names of the three winners, from left to right, are: Elizabeth Gingle, 3rd; Dean Miller, 2nd, and Jim Alexander, 1st.

Prep for winter

by Jeannie and Terry Ross

We hope that all of you beekeepers have had a successful honey season and made lots of delicious honey. We understand that some of you have had problems with your hives and are sorry to hear this. There are a few things that you should be doing right now:

1. FEED, FEED, FEED. Since our nectar flow is long over, you need to be feeding if your bees don't have much honey stored. Your brood super needs to weigh about 60lbs. going into the winter. Remember, waiting until cold weather will be too late to feed. They won't be eating much when the temperatures fall below 50 degrees. Also, be sure to put the small entrance reducer in place when you are feeding to prevent other bees from robbing the hive you are feeding.
2. Protect your drawn comb wax frames during the winter when they are not in use, by one of these two methods:
 - A. Put the unused frames into black garbage bags, and add about 2 tablespoons of moth crystals – not moth balls. Seal the bags and store until next spring when you need to use them again. We find the moth crystals at Ace Hardware stores and Ingle's grocery stores. We are mainly talking about your honey supers, unless you have an unused brood super, and you can just fit the whole honey or brood super into the garbage bag.
OR
 - B. You can put the frames of drawn wax into garbage bags and put them in the freezer for about a week. Be sure to seal the bags and keep them sealed until you use them next spring. But remember that when the wax is frozen it is extremely fragile and can shatter easily.
3. You should do a mite roll call sometime to determine if you should treat your hives for the varroa mite. Spray your mite call boards with cooking oil spray such as PAM and leave it underneath the screened bottom board for 24 hours and then pull it out and count the mites. Dr. Keith Delaplane says to treat if the mite count is 30 or above.
4. Also keep a watch out for hive beetles. This is the time of year that they can increase in numbers and get out of control.

It seems that in the past three years since we have tried to have u-Pick berries either the weather or the deer have been against us. Last year it was deer who ate all of our berries and this year the late freeze killed a lot of the blooms. We will try it again next year and hopefully it will be a better season. Before we had the u-pick there were so many berries we did not know what to do with them all. We solved the deer problem by purchasing some solar powered electronic animal chasers. The units we bought can be set for small, medium or large animals and seem to be quite effective. Because of all the new houses being built in our area, the deer have lost a lot of their habitat, so now they are bothering us, which they never did until last year. We guess that we were lucky they did not eat any of our garden plants for 23 years.

We will be posting the dates for our 2018 beekeeping classes during the month of December. So check out the website www.honeybeeexperience.com during December.

Come see us at Riverfest, at Etowah Park in Canton, on September 23 and 24th. This will be our 21st year at Riverfest which is being held for the first time at Etowah Park, on Brown Industrial Blvd, which is located off Georgia Hwy. 20 (at I-575). It is the road that R. T. Jones library is on. Have a great fall!



BEEKEEPING BEHIND BARS



Dooly State Prison announces nine inmates attain Certified Beekeeper status. On July 26, 2017, nine inmates sat for the Certification test administered by Jennifer Berry of the UGA Bee Lab. All nine testing passed with an average score of 95%. Dooly State Prison now boasts 23 Certified Beekeepers. Congratulations to all the members of The Sweet Dooly Bee Club.



Lee Arrendale State Prison has continued to publish it's newsletter, the Nectar Collector. [Click here](#) to see the latest issues.

They now have six langstroth hives and one top bar hive, and are enjoying seeing the difference in the two styles of hardware.

I love beekeeping! You can tell just by asking me what I know about bees. You'll be lucky to get me to stop telling you all I do know. But I would not have learned anything had a beekeeping class not come here to Dooly State Prison.

As it was, I did not sign up to join the class due to the restrictions about apiary locations. It was only later that I found that those restrictions would no longer apply, because the apiary would be inside the fence! Yet I was not in the class.

It wasn't until Mr. Rick Moore brought an observation hive to show the class that I really became interested. Peeking through the open doorway at hundreds of bees on a frame; I was caught and welcomed in! Let's just say I was hooked.

Fast forward about 18 months, and now I'm a Certified Beekeeper, helping new students learn all about the honey bee. I'm continuing my studies in the hope that a journeyman class will be presented, but, even if it isn't, I plan to learn all I can. To say that I've been stung is an understatement. If I could, I would spend every day teaching others about honey bees.

Once I get out of prison, I plan on coming back as a volunteer to keep teaching, along with taking an active part on the outside, in my local community. Thank you for giving me this opportunity

Ronnie Kent

President, Sweet Dooly Bee Club
Dooly State Prison

Want to learn more about the prison beekeeping programs? Attend the breakout session at the Fall GBA Meeting!



MEET THE VENDORS

The following vendors will be at the October meeting of the GBA. Now is the time to phone orders to these vendors of all kinds of supplies, and have them bring your order to the October meeting in Griffin. Vendors who are driving in are able to waive the shipping fees

that you'd normally have. Imagine, having 50 cases of glass bottles delivered for free; that's enough saved money in shipping alone to cover the cost of the meeting! However, some vendors are flying in and will be shipping their displays, so they can't waive the shipping fee. Please check with individual vendors regarding shipping costs.

Vendors who will be at the October conference:

Mann Lake	LD Consulting
Rossmann	Miller Bees, Inc.
Buster's Bees	OxVap
American Bee Federation	Solution Bee
Bee Hive Thermal	The Hive Butler
Doc's Healing Hives	T&S Bee Farm
	USDA

Click here to view the Fall Meeting Program!

GBA OFFICER ELECTION UPDATE

Nominations are now being compiled for the election at the upcoming Fall Meeting in Griffin, GA. Keep an eye on your mailbox for a detailed description for how the voting will be conducted as well as bios of those who are running for officers and directors thus far.



GBA Bylaws Update

The GBA Bylaws Committee includes Brutz English, Harvest Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, and Linda Tillman. We have bylaws that were written long ago and are in great need of updating. The four of us have been working nonstop to get the bylaws revised. We have put lots of thought and lots of hours into this project and expect that you will be pleased with our results.

Many changes were needed from small things (we no longer have membership cards) to large ones (the arrival of the electronic age required that we redefine the responsibilities of the officers). The current bylaws require that you, the membership, have the opportunity to review the revised bylaws for a month ahead of our voting on them at the October meeting. Keep your eyes open for your copy to arrive in your email box by September 6 for you to read.

Club News

West Georgia Beekeepers Association covers multiple the counties of Douglas, Carroll, Paulding, Cobb, and Haralson. All are welcome to visit our meetings. Contact Russ King 678.614.8627 for more information.

Troup County Beekeepers announce their Sept. 18th meeting will feature Steve Nofs speaking.

They will also hold their first Black Jar honey contest during the meeting. They meet at the Troup County Cattlemens Assoc. Building at 7PM, on the third Monday of each month.

They will be decorating a table at DeLavants the same day, with the prize winning, painted hive from the 2nd annual contest. This will be a fund raiser for the Lagrange Symphony Orchestra.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association will be hosting a Picnic, Auction & Honey Contest instead of the regular monthly meeting for September. The Picnic, Auction & Honey Contest will be on September 17, 2017, at the Galloway School, located at 215 W. Wieuca Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30342. The Picnic is from 4 pm to 7 pm and the cutoff for the Honey Contest entries is at 4:30pm. Please let us know if you would like to help us with this event. Volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Suzanne Bridgers at sbridgers@dataoceans.com.

MABA Junior Beekeepers program will be held on September 9th at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Buckhead. This will be the last program for the year. This is a great way to introduce children or students to the world of Beekeeping. Please visit this link to get more information and to reserve a place in the class: http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/jr_beekeepers.php



On August 19th, **TARA Beekeepers** taught two dozen young people (accompanied by their adult guests) about honeybees and beekeeping at our Annual Children's Short Course. We all had a great time and this eager bunch of students showed much enthusiasm and deep concern for honeybees.

At the August **Lake County Beekeepers Association** meeting in Sparta, Nicholas Weaver, from the University of Georgia Bee Lab, visited and offered insights on hive manipulations, nutrition and health. Nicholas is a long time beekeeper and always willing to share his beekeeping knowledge. As we move into fall, he recommends treating for Varroa, checking the queen and brood pattern and consolidating the colony to increase the bee density. It is critical to evaluate the feed resources of the hive. Carbohydrates are key to bee nutrition. One FULL super of honey per hive is needed and make sure to look at the super from the bottom side as well. Nicholas demonstrated a variety of feeding tools such as top feeders, entrance

feeders, and a division board. He uses sugar syrup (1:1), bulk sugar and protein patties to feed through the winter.

The club's first Honey Show was a sweet success. Thanks to Keith and Rose Anne Fielder, our members were given guidelines at the July meeting with suggestions on how to prepare their honey for the contest. There were two categories: an extracted (light, amber and dark) and a black jar. Awards were given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places along with highly commendable and commendable. The overall winners received cash prizes. Congratulations to: Bruce Morgan (1st), Roger Kicklighter (2nd) and Drew Davidson (3rd). This event was a fun and an educational time for our members.

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held their Second Annual Swap Meet on Tuesday, August 15th. Among the many treasures and finds were honey and hive products, in addition to gently used equipment.

In September, the club will hold a Black Jar honey contest among the members. Bragging rights last a full year; bring your 2017 honey and take home the Blue Ribbon!

On Saturday, September 23, we will present Beekeeping 201: How to keep your bees alive during overwintering, at the Old Houston County Courthouse in downtown Perry, GA.

The American Beekeeping Federation 2017 Honey Queen will attend the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA, in October as a special guest of Heart of GA Beekeepers Assn.. Come meet the Queen, and visit our observation hive on display.

The Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association will be having the our First Annual CEBA Welsh Honey Show on October 9th, 2017, at Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge, Savannah. Entries will be accepted from 12 noon till 6 pm - firm. Bear Kelly is our keynote speaker that night and the judging will occur during his presentation. There will be 3 classes of extracted honey judged: Light, Amber & Dark, and a Black Jar category. Please see our website for the rules of the Honey Show and eligibility criteria.

The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett reports that the honey has been extracted, the kids are back in school, and the bees are treated for Varroa. It's now time to feed, feed, and feed a little more to make sure our bees are ready for the coming winter.

David Bailey spoke to us this month and shared his Hive Management Calendar. David manages 60-75 hives and sells his honey locally. We learned a great deal about preparing for the flow, treating our bees for Varroa, and preventing swarming by proper preparation. It was a very interesting talk and we all walked away with our "To Do" lists!

Next month Jennifer Berry will be our speaker. It is always a joy to have her share the latest research from UGA with her touch of humor. Our small little meeting room will be swelling with excitement (and members).

Our club had a booth at the Gwinnett Heritage and Environmental center on August 27th to celebrate the Honeybee! We had a presentation to share with the attendees. The center was open to the public for this event.

September brings the Gwinnett County Fair, and we will once again have a large booth with our observation hive to show the public. We will also be selling lip balm, body lotion, and honey as our yearly fund raiser. It is also a great way to pick up new members and to answer the many interesting questions.



Are you looking for a speaker or presenter for your monthly meeting?

GBA has a list of speakers that includes contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer.

To see the list, [click here](#)

September Meetings

Club Name	Speaker/Topic	When	Where	City
Appalachian Beekeepers Association	TBD	Thurs, Sept 14, 7pm	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Drive	Jasper, GA
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett	Jennifer Berry - Update on UGA Honeybee Research	Tues, Sept 12, 7pm	Hebron Baptist Church, building B	Dacula, GA
CEBA	Linda Tillman - how to extract honey without a honey extractor	Mon, Sept 11, 6pm	Oatland Island Wildlife Refuge	Savannah, GA
Chattooga Beekeepers	TBD	Tues, Sept 12, 7pm	Ag Building, 32 Middle School Rd	Summerville, GA 30747
Clark Hill Bee Club	John Pluta	Mon, Oct 2, 7pm	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd.	Appling, GA
Coweta Beekeepers Assn	TBD	Mon, Sept 11, mentoring at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road	Newnan, GA
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	TBD	Thurs, Sept 28, 6:30pm	University of N GA Campus	Cumming, GA
Heart of Georgia	Black jar honey contest	Tues, Sept 19, 7pm	The Perry Arts Center, 1211 Macon Rd.	Perry, GA
Lake County Beekeepers Association	Linda Tillman - Let your bees go naked: foundationless frames	Mon, Sept 18, 6:30pm	UGA/4H Building, 12534 Augusta Highway	Sparta, GA
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assn	Picnic and honey contest	Sunday, Sept 17 4:00 pm	The Galloway School	Atlanta, GA
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association	TBD		Chow Time Chinese Buffet, 418 Northside Dr E	Statesboro, GA
Oglethorpe County Bee Club	TBD	Mon, Sept 18, 7-8:30PM	Oglethorpe County Farm Bureau	Crawford (Hwy 78), GA
TARA	Annual honey show & People's Choice black jar competition	Mon, Sept 18, 7pm	Kiwanis Bldg., 752 Main Street	Forest Park, GA
Tri County Beekeepers	TBD	Tues, Sept 19, 7pm	Gillsville City Park	Gillsville Ga
Tri-State Bee Association	TBD		Dade County Agriculture Building, 114 Pace Drive	Trenton, GA.
Troup County Assoc of Beekeepers	Steve Nofs	Mon, Sept 18, 7pm	Troup County Cattlemans Assoc. building	Lagrange, GA
West Georgia Beekeepers Association	Buster Lane - feeding and winter prep	Mon, Sept 25, mentoring 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm	American Legion, 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway	Douglasville, GA





OCTOBER 2017



GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling *The* Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The newest revision of the GBA Bylaws moves our organization into modern times. We have been operating with bylaws written before the universal use of computers and while GBA was a small organization of a few clubs. Reorganization through changes in our bylaws will make GBA more effective and efficient.

In rewriting the bylaws our committee has made some important changes to modernize our organization and to streamline how we operate as a volunteer-driven effort. Because we are purely a volunteer run organization, it is imperative for us to function as efficiently as possible. To that end, we made several improvements in the part of the bylaws that state how the Board of Directors will operate.

First we expanded the voting members of the board to include the webmaster who has his/her finger on the pulse of the organization and is vital to our functioning. This is in keeping with how other organizations are being run in the digital age. The newsletter editor, also a vital position in the club, already held a voting position.

Second, we installed the director of the UGA bee lab as a voting director. Our operation as a beekeeping organization includes a lot of information sharing from the bee lab and it only makes sense to have the director of the bee lab vote on our Board.

The third change addresses the composition of the Board of Directors. Our board is made up of six officers and four directors all of whom are elected by the GBA members. Unlike typical boards of directors, we have also included the presidents of each local club as voting members of the board of directors. In recent years Georgia has been forming clubs at a tremendous rate – only a few years ago there were 20 local clubs, currently we have 43 and anticipate continued growth ahead!

While this growth is wonderful for our organization, the increase in size of the board of directors creates difficulties with efficiency and productivity. Those of you who were at the last two board meetings will recall the impossibility of holding a thorough meeting in the allotted time. While adding more time for each meeting is a consideration, it's not a workable solution considering future growth, and there are other practical considerations that make such a large board of directors unwieldy. The fact is that we are in need of streamlining the way communication comes into the GBA from local clubs, and we believe there is a better way.

By creating a President's Advisory Council, the local club presidents will have a more effective way of communicating the needs and opinions of the local clubs and their members. Each local club president will automatically be a member of the PAC. In recent years the club presidents have had a breakfast gathering at the GBA meetings. These breakfasts have been invaluable for me as President to get to know the club presidents and to hear about how GBA can better serve you – I always come out of them energized and inspired. Going forward, this time slot will be expanded and used as a more formal meeting of the President's Advisory Council.

Additionally, the four GBA Directors will have designated clubs that they represent. Just as we have representatives in the US Congress, the four directors should be the representatives of the local clubs. The directors will have the responsibility of setting up a quarterly phone conference call with the presidents of the clubs that they represent. By participating in these phone conferences, the views of the local clubs will be carried to the GBA Board. The president will then have a quarterly call with the directors the week following their phone conference to keep the communication coming up the chain. Currently we don't have a concrete funnel for sending communication to the GBA Board and to the GBA President other than the interactions we have at our two yearly meetings.

The fact is we have grown too large for our board meetings alone to suffice. Needs and wants are slipping through the cracks. Between the President's Advisory Council and the representation of the Director assigned to your club, your voice will be heard, better than ever before.

By streamlining the GBA Board of Directors to a more typical size, it will be able to work more efficiently to make our growing organization function more effectively for each and every beekeeper in the state.

I'm so looking forward to seeing each of you at the October meeting in a few days,

Linda

MARY'S MUSINGS

By Mary Cahill Roberts

October, 2017, and then IRMA came a long

I had the fortune this year to add two community gardens to my apiary sites. One is at a church. So far this year they have donated over 450 pounds of fresh vegetables to a local food bank. My neighbor told me about them, I called them up, met with the directors of the garden and said sure I could put bees there.

I moved two hives and nuc in. I ended up moving them three times though, the first night I went, they had just paved the parking lot and I could not get in. The second night I set the hives up and then had to move them the third time 3 days later as they were too close to where they were going to actually garden... and we all know how people are about bees. Needless to say, no one bothers them where they are and I have been a part of giving to the food bank which is what it is all about. One of the hives is a mean hive that I have had the pleasure to work with. Basically, the hive does not like to be bothered.

The second community garden is in Austell, Georgia. This garden is owned and run by the city. They have a master gardener working part time to manage the property. The Garden was created after the city bought over 70 homes from the 500-year flood in 2009. The flood destroyed many houses that could not be rebuilt and so out of lemons... Part of the area where they tore the houses down they changed into the community garden of about 7 acres. It is a beautiful space and there is much opportunity to do community events. They have a really motivated master garden named Andrea Searles, who is excited about this area. I got involved after she came to a class I gave at the Mableton Community Garden. She decided she needed to have bees at the garden. I moved two hives in May. The city built a small fenced area that is locked so no one can disturb the hives.

Irma showed up. We had our first ever tropical storm warning with a prediction of 4-6 inches of rain. So, Sunday night I went over to the garden with a friend and loaded up the hives. I then drove them back home in my truck where they stayed until Tuesday night, when I went back to the garden to move them back in. It was a lot of work as we don't expect to have to move our hives around, but I did not want to lose any from flooding if I could prevent it. The garden got a little water but a lot less than what was predicted. I felt though if I had not moved the hives I would have lost them and it would have rained a lot more on Monday and Tuesday. Overall, I think it was a really good experience for me for planning the future.



In the path of totality

By Bob Grant, Journeyman Beekeeper

On August 21st, we had the extraordinary fortune to be in the path of totality of the eclipse. It was awe inspiring as the sun slowly disappears behind the moon's shadow.

We had fifteen people in our West field looking directly overhead (with special glasses) as the eclipse began. Among the guests were William Thacker and his family; a beekeeper and queen producer from Dahlongega. This field is also home to our main apiary of 20 hives. Being very curious as to how the bees would react to the momentary darkness, I decided to video some of the hives along with one of the two feeders.

The video equipment was set up to capture normal bee behavior prior to the beginning of the event. We videoed several minutes of normal behavior as well as the entire event from just prior to the beginning, through the post-event period. In addition, William and I did several closer walkdowns throughout the event to validate what was being recorded.



Exhibit 1-Normal feeding activity



Exhibit 2- Bee activity after totality

Exhibit 2 shows activity immediately after totality.

In this (focus challenged) photograph, there is no feeding activity with the majority of bees resting on the feeder's bottom board. It took 3 minutes, for feeding activity to restart, and 11 minutes for full activity to resume. Additional feeders, showed similar results.

One might conclude the bees were caught off-guard, but reacted in a manner consistent with early evening behavior observed on a regular basis. We have observed our bees to spend the night in small clusters on feeders, even into the 50°F range.

One thought; bees don't always do what you think they should do!



Photo Gallery



Photos by David Morris II

GBA gave Dr. Clinton Ready and Dr. Gloria Huddleston (now retired) a grant to develop pollinator habitats on the Cochran campus of Middle Georgia State University. These are pictures of raised beds with automatic sprinkler systems constructed with that grant money. Wildflowers that were planted are starting to bloom, helping MGA's bees prepare for winter.



USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR HONEY BEES

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to \$20 million in a fiscal year for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

For further information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

...and
PUMPKINS!



The Pros and Cons of Family Membership in GBA

By Linda Tillman

We have a dues category in GBA called family membership. A number of our members pay their dues through this category and I want to look with you at the pros and cons of choosing to pay your dues this way.

For clarity, we have three types of memberships in GBA: an individual membership (one person, one vote), an honorary membership (awarded to someone who has greatly contributed to GBA but isn't a member), a life membership (awarded to someone who has contributed to GBA in so many ways that we think he/she deserves to be a member forever).

Family membership is a dues category which allows you to get a discount for registering two individual members in a family at the same time. Paying your dues this way gets you two individual memberships which would have cost you \$30 paid individually for the discounted price of \$25.

Here are the pros and cons of paying your dues this way:

Pros:

1. You save \$5
2. You can list two nonvoting children on your membership as well. Because our bylaws require that votes go to dues paying members, the family membership as of 2017 only includes two voting members and two nonvoting children, if you'd like to list them.

Cons:

1. People who sign up as a family membership frequently only use one email address: the one for the main person applying for membership. Often both members are active beekeepers but with only one email address, you get only one copy of the newsletter.
2. When it's time to sign up for an event that GBA puts on, if you only have one email address, the software we use won't let you sign up your other family member. We run into this problem every time we have an event - a conference or anything that we have you sign up for online.

For example, Buzzy and Queenie Bee have a family membership. Buzzy joined GBA for them and only put his email address (buzzbeebigguy@gmail.com) on their membership. Both of them really want to hear Randy Oliver and if truth be told, actually Queenie does more of the beekeeping than Buzzy. So when they try to sign up for the fall conference, Buzzy signs up using his email and then when he tries to add Queenie as his guest, the program will not let him do so. The message on the screen says, "That email is already registered."

This causes a huge rift between them and she kicks him out of the hive in September before the fall conference. Now Queenie in her grief over her marriage wants to distract herself by signing up for the conference on her own. She tries unsuccessfully because until Buzzy changes his membership to an individual membership or she does, she isn't really free of him and still can't sign up to come to hear Randy Oliver.

It's easy to get a free email address. Google is one of the many companies where you can get free gmail addresses. I have about 15 of them. My sister and I had a contest with each other over who could get the best gmail address. I have addresses like agoodcookisgenerous@gmail.com and wellyoucould@gmail.com . But she won the contest with hushmymouth@gmail.com

So the moral of the story is either sign up as individual members or, if you really want \$5 off, join as a family, but at least use a separate email address for each person in the family to allow both of the family members to receive their own GBA emails and to allow each to register for a GBA event.

Parasitic Mite Syndrome

Steve Page from Coweta Beekeepers, sends [THIS LINK](#) about Parasitic Mite Syndrome.

And also the Bee health mobile app:

The Bee Health app is based on current scientific knowledge to address honey bee diseases and pests. It is a handy resource to help beekeepers and other users to detect, diagnose, manage and treat honey bee diseases and pests. It includes pictures and treatment options which will aid beekeepers in adopting appropriate pest management

Apple

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bee-health/id1005231410?mt=8>

Android

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ca.ab.gov.beehealth&hl=en>

**You might be a
beekeeper if...**



**you find bees in your
dryer lint. -- Kelley
Campbell**

BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood



"It's ok. These are my emotional support bees."



**KEEP CALM
AND
SERVE THE
QUEEN**

Oh Honey! *By Rick Moore*

My wife of recent wanted, and got, the ultimate bee-themed wedding on September 9! From the invitations to the cake and topper; from the centerpieces on the tables to the jars of honey we prepared for our guests to take home with them; from the custom made, 18-inch tall, rope skeps to the mead served at lunch; from the hive smokers filled with lavender and goldenrod to the eight foot by eight foot honeycomb alter backdrop Anita and I built, everything was bee-themed.

Our story started at our local bee club where Anita, a new beekeeper at the time, asked me to visit her single hive and confirm that she was doing things correctly (she was.) We had an instant bond, which a year and a half later led us to this wedding.

Anita placed small handmade skeps on a bed of pine straw on the tables, and there were two large skeps placed on either side of the altar. We displayed two hives decorated with a golden honeycomb and bees. Guests anticipated that we were wearing bee suits for the wedding, and I did, much to the displeasure of my soon to be bride. But I removed it before she walked down the pathway to where I stood (the guests loved it, Anita not so much. It appeared as though she wanted to severely harm me about then! At least in the bee-ginning.) Anita was simply adorned with bee jewelry.

Our favorite singer-songwriter and recording artist, Amy Beville, and her partner, Paul Ewing performed together at our wedding. That was a present from my lovely bride to me. Amy even rewrote several lines of our favorite "Amy song" as a custom fit for us.

Our guests were encouraged to sign the honeycomb register as they entered. Instead of a unity candle, we mixed Anita's original hive honey with mine to create our honey; kind of a unity honey, which we will preserve. In addition to lunch, we served Chaucer's Mead and homemade Lavender-Honey Lemonade at the reception. I wore a bright yellow tie with bees on it, and the handsome grandsons each wore yellow bowties with bees. Our granddaughter had an adorable bee dress and bees in her hairbow. During the reception, a slideshow projected numerous pictures of Anita and I working with and enjoying our bees.

The day was perfect! A honeymoon cruise from Tampa was scheduled for Monday, September 11. Remember that day? Hurricane Irma was racing up the Florida peninsula heading for Middle Georgia. Irma cancelled our honeymoon cruise, but she could not damper a bee-utiful, honeybee-themed wedding between Anita Curry and myself, Rick Moore.





Official Cookie of the Tara Beekeepers!



Our family surprised us with a homemade, bee-themed, wedding cake after our wedding ceremony at Lincoln Center. (December 2013, Keif & Su Schwenckundschleifer)



More bee themed goodies from Rick and Anita's wedding!

BEEKEEPING BEHIND BARS

Oh no, a dearth!

So that's why my bees aren't making much honey. That's why my bee population is so light. And right now is a crucial time of the year for overwintering. If the bees don't collect enough pollen and nectar to survive winter, they won't!

So what can I do? Feed! But how? There are several methods of feeding bees in such a situation and I will cover several I have personally tried. Each has its own advantages and drawbacks that I will point out.

Boardman Feeders. This type of feeder is simple to use. Just mix table sugar with water in a quart jar with a perforated lid and place it in your hive entrance. Easy. There are downsides to this though, robbing. Your bees will find the sugar syrup but so will other insects. And it will become a laborious ordeal to refill it after the bees have emptied it in a day or two.

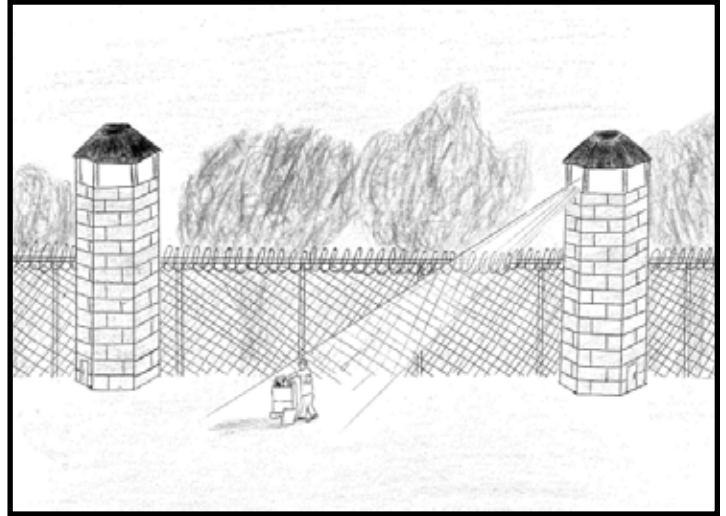
Dry sugar. I've done this in two ways; on the inner cover, and in bulk in an empty nuc placed above the brood box. Placing it on the inner cover is better as the bees only need pass through the ventilation hole to access it; though they will have to collect water to dissolve it so they can eat it. Plus, wasps did find the sugar in my weaker hives. Putting dry sugar in an empty nuc was not a good idea. Bees, wasps, ants, and roaches all found it. Doing so only caused problems in my apiary. While removing the hardened sugar, I found mason bees had tunneled through the sugar!

Plastic bags. Here again I mixed sugar in water, in a bag this time, to feed my bees. This method is easy, if messy, especially when refilling the bag that was stuck with propolis. Don't reuse the bag! It does allow for greater amounts of feed to be given at one time, but if the holes poked in the top of the bag are too large, the syrup will leak out. Not good, especially in winter.

I would use a boardman feeder most often; that is, if I had enough to go on every hive. Not overly expensive, a box of zip lock plastic bags is much less costly. Then again, those can add up. It all comes down to personal preference. Maybe you like division board feeders, which I haven't tried, yet!

Ronnie Kent

President, Sweet Dooly Bee Club
Dooly State Prison



A breakout session at our October GBA meeting will be "Beekeeping behind Georgia State Prison walls" given by Rick Moore. The talk will give you the history of beekeeping in Georgia prisons and what you and your club can do to help.

...and
APPLE
PICKING



I love creepie, crawlle, flying things

by Tracy Fortson

I love insects. Ever since I was a little girl I have been fascinated by things that creep, crawl and fly! I was constantly catching specimens in a jar to have a closer look. I peeped into every crevice and overturned every log, rock or leaf in search of the creepiest of crawlies or winged creatures. I was also the kid that poked a stick in an ant bed or squirted water on a wasp nest and took off at a high rate of speed to avoid the consequences. Of course, I didn't always outrun them.

I remember watching a program as a kid and being overcome with awe as I watched someone who had thousands of bees covering their body! And it was on purpose! I remember thinking of the stings I had suffered and thought to myself, "I could never do that!". Well, I'm here to say that I have since changed my mind. Now that I have taken the beekeeping class and became a certified beekeeper, I have learned so much more than I ever expected to know about honey bees. And yes, I could do that!

Learning about the life of such an amazing creature as the honey bee has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I just thought I knew something about bees, but now I learn something new every day about this wonderful and beautiful insect.

How can I describe a bee as beautiful? Well, if you knew what I know about them you would understand. For instance, honey bees are a complete and totally social insect. That means that each member of a colony of honey bees has a responsibility to the hive. They are not "all about self" they are all about taking care of each other. Everything they do, every minute of the day, and every decision made, is for the wellbeing of the entire colony.

Yes, they sting, but only in self-defense or in defense of the hive. Once the honey bee stings, it dies. "What greater gift than to lay down one's life for the sake of a friend."

What a thought... imagine what the world would be like if we humans lived like the honey bee and put the wants and needs of all people, as a whole, ahead of our own.

Tracy is the newsletter editor at the Honey Comb Club at Lee Arrendale State Prison

MEANIE QUEENIE

An imaginative idea of what re-queening looks like.

By Ladrina Johnson

Swarming-colony level reproduction-gives the colony an event to look forward to. The current queen has left with half the worker population, and until they have a new queen all the focus is on raising the potential ruler. As you can imagine things get a bit hasty. Try to picture this...

Lots of bees cheering on their queen of choice, waiting to see the first queen emerge, hoping that the queen they chose will be her. A bee comes around collecting honey coins for bets on the queen of their choice "put your honey where your mouth is, bet on the queen of your liking". A bee commentator is keeping everyone posted on what is going on, and finally giving notice that the queens are emerging... "Alright folks, its day 16 and the queens are about to get mean. Let's see who will take the crown."

With a shimmy and a shake, the first emerging queen shows her fuzzy face and the bees go wild!!! But she is not alone, another queen cell has cracked and a queen is emerging--who will be the victor?

Ding, Ding, Ding, the ready to rumble bell rings and the two queens begin the fight to the finish. With stings and bites and piping loud war calls, the fight gets fierce and ferocious. The spectating bees are buzzing with anticipation, and the commentator finally announces the winner. A vicious queen of a bright golden color has won and proceeds to secure her spot by ripping open the queen cells that have not emerged yet and giving them the sting of their demise. The colony has finally crowned their Meanie Queenie.



HURRICANE IRMA

We all were impacted by Hurricane Irma either by loss of power, downed trees or maybe even a blown over bee hive. These poor bees lost their home.

I received a call from Jennifer Berry, at the UGA bee lab, that a homeowner in Ila, Georgia, had a large tree with a downed limb that had bees in it, asking could I help.

Being that I was in my third day without power and looking for something to do, I loaded up and made the drive over. Sure enough, when I arrived there was a large limb that had broken off about 20 feet up in the oak tree where the bees were living. There were several pieces of honeycomb on the ground around the tree, but no bees. After spending a little time looking around the tree, I put a ladder up to where the limb had broken off and sure enough, the bees had gathered back up in the top of the tree.

I assembled my bee vac and was able to find the queen and vacuum up all the bees and relocate them to a new bee hive to allow them to survive Irma. It turns out this was one of five calls for "bees in a tree" that I received after all the devastation that not only impacted us as beekeepers, but also the feral bees in the area.

This is just a small testament to the importance of us as a beekeeping community, to continue to educate the general public about the importance of honeybees, so they will continue to call a local beekeeper when colonies like this are found.

Bobby Chaisson

Georgia Bee Removal
www.gabeeremoval.com



But mostly
I love
October
because...



...It's time
for the
Fall GBA
Meeting!



[Click here to view the
Fall Meeting Program!](#)

MEET THE VENDORS

The following vendors will be at the October meeting of the GBA. Now is the time to phone orders to these vendors of all kinds of supplies, and have them bring your order to the October meeting in Griffin. Vendors who are driving in are able to waive the shipping fees that you'd normally have. Imagine, having 50 cases of glass bottles delivered for free; that's enough saved money in shipping alone to cover the cost of the meeting! However, some vendors are flying in and will be shipping their displays, so they can't waive the shipping fee. Please check with individual vendors regarding shipping costs.

Vendors who will be at the October conference:

*Mann Lake
Rossman
Buster's Bees
American Bee Federation
Bee Hive Thermal
Doc's Healing Hives
LD Consulting
Miller Bees, Inc.
OxVap
Solution Bee
The Hive Butler
T&S Bee Farm
USDA*

Notice of upcoming annual business meeting

We will have an annual business meeting of the membership at the fall conference in October in Griffin at 9 AM on Saturday, October 7. The election results will be announced at 12:45 on Saturday rather than during the business meeting in order to allow people to vote on both Friday and Saturday mornings.

If you want to vote in the secret ballot election, and to vote on issues at the business meeting, you have to be a member in good standing. This means that you have to have your dues paid up for the next year. Everyone has a different renewal date, one year from when you last paid your dues.

To check on your renewal date, please sign in with the email address you use for GBA (the one where you get the newsletter). If you have forgotten your password, you can set a new one. Then you can see when your renewal date is and pay your dues if you need to.

We have a great conference planned and hope to see most of you there!



Club News

Here are the scheduled events for the remainder of the year for the **West Georgia Beekeepers Association**:

October 23rd- Tom Rearick/ How a Bee Thinks

November 27th – Barry Bolling / Bee Calendar

December – Christmas Party

Troup County Beekeepers held our first Black Jar event with Steve Nofs speaking. Philip Benefield and Vickie Teal split a victory for the best tasting honey in Troup County.

We will be participating in an Educational Field Day, behind Troup county High School on October 13th, with an observation hive and will educate 400 4th and 5th graders on the importance of pollinators.

We decorated a table for the Lagrange Symphony fund raiser with our prize winning painted bee hive from our second annual Painted Hive Contest.

Our next and last meeting of the year will be on Oct. 16th at 7:00PM.



We will have our President, Brad Myers, speaking and demonstrating soap and candle making. We meet at the Agriculture building on Vulcan Rd. off of Hamilton (Hwy 27).

Here's a picture of the prize winning painted hive decorating a table for the Lagrange Symphony Orchestra fund raiser.

David Brookshire earned bragging rights for having the Best Tasting Honey of the **Tara Beekeepers** Annual Honey Show. His black jar honey won our People's Choice award. Keif Schleifer won an award for Extracted Honey. Melanie Maxwell and Charlotte Roden each won Art Awards for their compelling photography. Fran Lane won a Crafts Award for her eco-friendly Bees Wraps and Ronnie Brannon impressed everyone with his hive-leveling device taking top honors with a Gadget Award. Master Beekeeper & Welsh Honey Judge, Mary Cahill-Roberts, judged our honey show. She was joined by Evelyn Williams, also a Welsh Honey Judge.

Tara Beekeepers Association meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297. Guest are always welcome

Festive Fall Celebration - Food, Fun, Contests & Games-Annual Tara Picnic

Saturday, Oct. 21st, 11am, The Minter's Farm, [283 Hills Bridge Road, Fayetteville, GA 30215](#)

Contact: Fran at bustersbees@yahoo.com

Hands-on support & individualized attention for aspiring Beekeepers: *Tara Beekeepers Fall Short Course*

Sat., Nov. 4th, 8am - 4pm, 752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297

Registration: \$65 includes club membership, bee-keeping handbook & lunch

(\$10 for each additional family member)

Contact: Fran at bustersbees@yahoo.com or Mary at maryc7@aol.com

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club's September 18th speaker was Christine Fortuin, who spoke on Bees Gone Wild: Mayan beekeeping practices with Africanized honeybees and stingless bees in Mexico, and an overview of the wild forest bees of the southeast U.S.

Our October 16th speaker will be Dan Long speaking about Observation Hives.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association will have its next meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 7:00pm, with featured guest speaker Dr. Keith Delaplane. Please join us at Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Mershon Hall.

I don't know about you, but each time I attend one of **Lake Country Beekeepers Association's** our meetings, I leave energized and excited and a little bit smarter about this hobby/craft we have chosen to be a part of. The Lake Country Beekeepers meeting on September 18, did not disappoint. It was informative and frankly, full of laughter! We had the honor of having Linda Tillman, president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association present on "Foundationless Hives." Her whimsical approach to first explaining the philosophy behind this type of beekeeping and then laying out the details on how it's

done kept the audience of about 25 folks highly engaged. If there are any "renegade beekeepers" in our midst, this method may be something you want to consider. Her blog site can be found here : <http://beekeeperlinda.blogspot.com/>

As well, individuals in our membership were encouraged to join the Georgia Beekeepers Association. About 15 of the LCBA members in attendance are GBA members and are appreciative of our statewide association. It goes far to represent our interests to government entities to ensure the continued health, growth and prosperity of beekeeping.

After her training session was over, we moved onto club business. The membership voted to support making a \$500 donation to the UGA Bee Lab in Athens, which they will use for educational and research purposes. In addition, LCBA challenges all beekeeping clubs to make an equal donation to the UGA Bee Lab in 2017.

Things to Come –

Beekeeping Short Course, Saturday, January 27th, 2018, 9am – 3pm, with featured speakers: Keith Fielder, Dr. Brett Nolan and Bruce Morgan at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Sparta, GA.

Next LCBA meeting is Monday, October 16th, 6:30 pm, at UGA/4H Extension Building, 12534 Augusta Hwy, Sparta, GA . Our speaker will be Slade Jarrett of Jarrett Apiaries.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held our annual Black Jar honey contest in September. The People's Choice blue ribbon winner was Shannon Wagner. The red ribbon was shared by Paul Smith, Jr. and Jonathan Hayes.

The October meeting will be nominations for 2018 officers; all offices are up for election. If you know someone who would make a good officer, or yourself, please come to our October 17th meeting and make the nomination.

Coweta Beekeepers Association's next regular monthly meeting is Monday, October 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

The normally scheduled mentoring session will take place at 6:30 PM.

Next month we will have full coverage of the GBA meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 6 and 7, in Griffin!



The Chattooga Beekeepers had a outstanding event at the Ag Fair this year. Varietals of honey not found locally were offered to taste, to teach where honey gets its flavor. Visitors went away smacking their lips and a little wiser about bees and honey!

The Beekeepers club of Gwinnett had a booth at the Gwinnett County Fair again this year. It is our club's only fundraiser, and once again it was very successful. We always have our observation hive which draws the kids to the booth giving us time to talk with the family about beekeeping. This has always been a great opportunity to add members to our club as well as to boost our pocketbook by selling honey, lip balm, and body lotion all of which were very successful.



Hurricane Irma changed our speaker's plans in September due to damage from the high winds. We held a Q&A session with many questions from the club about Varroa treatment and Feeding the Bees. These are always hot topics for this time of the year.

In October, Julia Mahood will speak to us about making Propolis Tinctures and Creamed Honey. The club says they are tired of hearing about mites and feeding! Julia will also share with us a few of her Beekeeping Tips and Tricks. We are looking forward to her talk. Date: October 10th at 7:00, Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula





NOVEMBER 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The best news for Georgia cars and for GBA: our own GBA member, Julia Mahood, created the winning design for the Georgia honey bee license plate. Julia is a graphic designer, a MABA member, a Master Beekeeper, our newsletter co-editor, and a hard-working member of the conference committee.

Congratulations to Julia for coming up with an artful design that is attractive, stylized, warm and engaging, and will draw attention on the back of cars to our favorite insect, the honey bee.

I also want to applaud the second and third place winners. In second place was Alison Scheel of yellowbee studio and in third place was Stephanie Calvert, a graphic designer and beekeeper who belongs to Effingham and to Ogeechee bee clubs.

We had great participation in the contest with seventeen entries from twelve different people. I understand that in order to enter, some of the contestants had to learn how to use Adobe Acrobat Illustrator and it is a difficult program to master.

Thank you to all of you who entered. The entrants were: Christian Alexander, Kathy Arturo, Derrick Fowler, Bob Grant, Alison Kennedy, Jane Lu, Julia Mahood, Dee Martin, Katie Roberts, Hannah Rose, and Alison Scheel.

I also want to thank our judges. The judges were: Jason Fox, a professor at SCAD; Keith Delaplane, UGA entomology department head; Holly Bayendor, graphic designer and MABA president; Gina Gallucci, artist and vice-president of GBA; and Gail Dean and Tim Doherty, co-chairs of the legislative committee. The judging was done completely blind and until the final decision was made, none of the judges knew the identities of any of the artists.

The judges worked harder than we anticipated their having to do. When the top three choices were made, the judges sent suggestions for improvements to the designers of the top three plates. When the improved winners came back, the top three were judged against each other. Several of the judges took full-sized renditions of the license plate and held it to the backs of cars and viewed it from another car to see how it showed up.

As you drive around, when you spot specialty license plates on the backs of cars, you'll notice that often they are very hard to see. Our judges were striving to find a design that is worthy of the honey bee as well as noticeable from a distance.

Now the next step in the process is to move the plate through the legislature. Our legislative committee is proceeding with those steps.

Having this honey bee plate on Georgia cars will provide an ongoing revenue stream to GBA. When the approval process is complete, we will be looking to all of you to get your friends and relatives to support us and the honey bee by purchasing these plates!

Linda Tillman
GBA President



FALL
MEETING
2017



Arthur "Brutz" English is the recipient of this year's **Georgia Beekeeper of the Year** award.

Brutz has done so much for beekeeping in Georgia. A Master Beekeeper, Welsh Honey Judge, and Director of GBA, he goes above and beyond at every opportunity to make beekeeping great in our state.

Congratulations, Brutz! It's difficult to imagine a more deserving individual.





Rick Moore and Jane Quattlebaum are our newly elected Directors. Congratulations, Rick and Jane!



*Lifetime Member
Bear Kelley*

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Georgia Beekeepers Association for the honor you have bestowed on me as a Life Member. I realize the value of this award and know that not many members have received this accolade. I am extremely grateful to have served this association and have been rewarded with so many friends and experiences. We are members of a great organization that has stood the test of time and is on the horizon of another 100 years. Let's continue to work together and support the Honey Bee that we all love so well.

**Thank You,
Bear Kelley**





Best of Show



Master Beekeeper and GBA past President Mary Cahill-Roberts won Best of Show for her beautiful frame of honey.

Congratulations, Mary!



Thanks to Derrick Fowler, Derrick Forester, Fran Lane, Dan Long and Rick Moore for sending in photos of the GBA Fall Meeting.



Buster and I had a great Friday and Saturday seeing friends and customers! — **Fran Lane**



Winner!

Lisa Hogue won the baking contest with her delicious almond honey bars. Her recipe will be used for the Baked Goods category in the GBA Artesian show in February.



BEECAUSE by Julia Mahood

Sitting at the Fall Meeting I wondered what a Georgia BEES Association Meeting would look like

GEORGIA BEES association



FALL MEETING !!

The theme of this (and every) meeting is VARROA!
Varroa, varroa, varroa. Darn you, Varroa!
Varroa? VARROA! Is it Varroa or varroa?
Viruses! Varroa! Varroa, varroa, varroa. Do you varroa? Varroa, varroa and even more Varroa than ever before.

☆ SPECIAL EVENTS ☆

- NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING
We will be voting on changes to the bylaws at this meeting, so bring your boxing gear and soapboxes.
- QUEEN ATTENDANT Council's BREAKFAST
will welcome the enthusiastic speaker Ms. Lady N. Waiting, author of Is your royal a royal pain? Dealing with monstrous monarchs
- BEEBREAD BAKE-OFF and POLLEN CONTEST
You can't win if you don't enter!

BREAK OUT SESSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

B-E-E A-G-G-R-E-S-S-I-V-E Train your keepers by using your most aggressive behavior. Pick up tips on how to sting even the most well-dressed human.

SUCCESSFUL SWARMING ON A DIME
How to pack your bags for a great flight and make it to your new home with energy to spare.

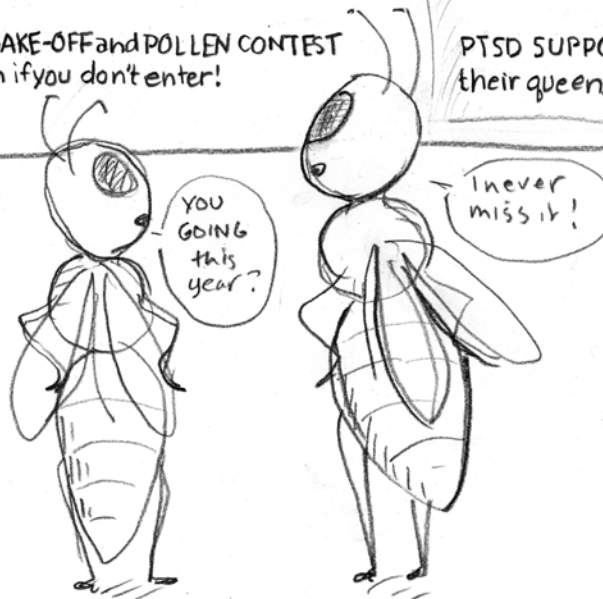
WANNABECOME TREE HUGGERS? Learn all about absconding and living treatment free the way the settlers did - in the cavity of a tree!

REDESIGN THE BOYS DORMS Finding space in the spring for drone brood can be stressful - plan now and create a fabulous dwelling for your brothers,

NURSE BEES UNIONS - There is power in numbers! Spring time is strike time, so organize now to demand better hours and more respect!

CODEPENDENT NO MORE Learn about this powerful 12-step program to help you stop feeding the evil small hive beetles.

PTSD SUPPORT GROUP For those who balled their queens this season. *It does get better!*



© JULIA MAHOOD



Dear Aunt Bee,

In the past couple of weeks I've had a few "mini-swarms" that seem to be clusters with no queens. I've hived two of them now and they don't stay and don't have a queen that I can find. One of them clustered on a hive stand. I have no idea if it was their hive that they clustered on or not. This cluster happened after some robbing in the bee yard. Any thoughts?

Signed,
What is going on

Dear What,

With nearly no drones available for breeding at this time of the year, and with no visible queen, there is very little chance of these mini-swarms surviving. By them clustering on a hive stand, it sounds like it was their hive and perhaps there were too many bees, similar to bearding, just getting out of the hot hive - it has been very warm for this time of the year. By you saying it has happened after some robbing in the bee yard, I'm sure their little bellies were full and they either went back to their home hives, or they absconded. Either way, if you could not catch them, cage them for a few days and reintroduce them back into an established hive, their lives will be very short. Please let us know what has happened to the two mini-swarms you've hived. Good luck.

Signed,
Aunt Bee



The GBA Buzz Fund

At our fall conference, the following clubs made donations to the Buzz Fund:

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association donated \$500.00, earmarked for the UGA varroa study.

Lake Country Beekeepers donated \$150.00 in memory of John & Theresa.

MABA donated \$500.00

Tara Beekeepers Association donated \$100.00.

The challenge has been issued to all other clubs, match or beat these generous donations.

The **BUZZ FUND** is used by the GBA to support research in the beekeeping community. Any individual, institution or organization may apply for a Buzz Fund grant. More information and the application process can be accessed [HERE](#).

SWARMING IN THE HURRICANE

By Timothy Hoffman

Gene Kelley may have been Singin' in the Rain, but thanks to a little storm called Irma, we were Swarmin' in the Hurricane. On the Saturday before Hurricane Irma was supposed to devastate Savannah and surrounding area I noticed a busier than normal backyard of bees and I jokingly thought to myself, the bees know the storm is coming and must be stocking up supplies, ha ha. That afternoon we went out to the yard to do some final preparations before the storm when I noticed a small ball of bees about twenty feet up on a tree limb. At this point all our hives were strapped down tight in anticipation of 60-100 mph winds, in other words, we're not finding out which hive this came from today. Donning our gear, grabbing a bucket and pole saw, we quickly subdued the small mass. A spare nuc came flying out of the shed and in they went. Add a couple of bricks and another cargo strap and they're locked down for Hurricane Irma too.

Fast forward to Monday afternoon. Irma has taken a very lucky turn inland. (lucky for us in Effingham County that is). Even with the heavy wind and rain, thankfully, Irma caused no damage to any people or bees at our house. I'm in the backyard, now looking around for possible damage and I notice a ball of bees on the ground 15 feet from the apiary.

That storm really has my bees going crazy I think. As part of the backyard was flooded we were not about to tackle any real apiary work so out comes another box and in they go until the next day at least.

Tuesday after the storm is fantastic as it is cool weather, our employers are still closed, and we're out inspecting hives. We find a nuc that we split several weeks ago has absconded. Too bad as they raised a nice queen, she mated, and was laying just a week prior to the hurricane. Then we look at the swarm nuc from Saturday, also absconded. Monday's capture it turns out is also missing. I'm starting to get the feeling I've been chasing the same absconding hive, I guess they just didn't want to stay in any box we put them in. You catch a swarm here or there, and then you lose some too so I guess it all works out in the end. Except the story doesn't end there. Tuesday afternoon, I'm in the backyard, 50 feet from the apiary when I notice on the ground another ball of bees. They don't want to stay in the box but they don't seem to want to leave my yard either. Once again they go back in the box (queen and all) and full covers come out, block the entrance and let them sit and think about what they've done for a few days. Maybe they'll stick around this time... or maybe not. Regardless of end success, we can now say we caught a single swarm 3 times over the course of a Hurricane.

Hurricane Recovery **By Dan Long**

I recently had the opportunity to perform an interesting cutout. A huge oak had fallen during Hurricane Irma. It had already been down for 10 days but the contact told me foragers were returning with pollen so it sounded like it might still be OK.

I packed the back of my truck with everything I thought might be needed. The list included my chainsaw, drill, beevac, regular gear, a deep hive, drawn deep frames, empty deep frames and rubber bands and headed out. I found a small crowd gathered in the yard a short distance from the biggest oak I've ever seen, on the ground. It was about five feet in diameter! After looking around a bit at the entrance, I drilled a few holes to try to determine the size of the hollow and general location of the hive inside. It didn't turn up anything positive so I switched over to the chainsaw and started cutting a chunk out about a foot to the right of the entrance. One of the watchers was actually really helpful. He borrowed my spare veil and dug right into all of the tasks with me.

The team responsible for the eventual removal of the tree, came a little later to help. I'm really glad, because they brought 2 more saws including one with a 4ft bar! It turns out they were the ones who wanted someone to save the bees, instead of simply spraying them, before beginning their cleanup work. They were able to get the tree opened up in about an hour.

I got to work vacuuming bees and looking for the queen. Much of the comb was actually intact. I was very happy to find plenty of young, uncapped



brood in a nice pattern. The colony could be saved! My only concern was that I couldn't find the queen. I cut and loaded as much comb as possible into frames with rubber bands to hold them in place, and loaded them into a deep box. I dumped the bucket of bees from the vacuum into it, too. Then I crossed my fingers that I had somehow missed the queen in all the work, and she was inside the box with all the other bees. With the stray bits of comb and wood bagged up and removed from the area, I sat back to watch their behavior. Sure enough, the entire colony was focusing on the Langstroth and ignoring the opened hollow!

Another onlooker who lent a hand, turned out to be a beekeeper, too. She told me she had lost all of her bees over the summer, so I suggested she look after this colony. She very happily accepted and we swapped my box for hers before packing up for the day. I instructed her to come back before dawn the following morning, close up the entrance and take them home. She later reported that the move went fine and the colony was settling right into their new home!



Tipped over hives from Tropical Storm Irma *By Kathleen Bourn*

This year's hurricane season has definitely been an attention getter. Of course, while we're getting the flashlights out and the chain saw gassed up, the beekeeper is thinking about how to protect the hives. I, at least, thought I had protected mine the best I could.



Most of my hives are against a tree line. That's great for shade in the hot summer afternoons and a nice wind break when the northern gusts kick up. The downside is when those same trees don't stay vertical. My worry with the approaching Tropical Storm Irma was those same trees would go horizontal all over my bees. I wasn't going to move all the hives, so there was absolutely nothing I could do to protect them from downed trees. I moved on to thinking about wind gusts.

The majority of my hives are on concrete stands, so they all got tightened down with ratchet straps. I have a couple of Warre hives that are on wood stands. For some reason I neglected to tie them down. Maybe my beekeeper brain thought they were heavy enough and propolized



together so they wouldn't tip over. As with many things in beekeeping, I was wrong.

I can only get to my hives on the weekend, so it was a full week after the storm when I discovered one of the Warres on its side.

I also had one Langstroth (on a temporary wooden stand) go over, but since it was strapped together I just had to flip it back up. The bees were still in the Warre even though it had gotten rained on. It also didn't take long for the wax moths and small hive beetles to have a field day with the comb. YUCK!

The happy ending to the story is that both hives survived, and they were re-assembled without the need of help from FEMA. Also, the trees that did go down went the opposite direction from the hives.



The lessons learned by the bee's keeper... have heavy hive stands, buy more ratchet straps, and USE THEM.



Bee Shirt* Gallery

As seen at the GBA Fall Meeting



***and shoe!**

STARVATION

By Tracy Fortson, Lee Arrendale State Prison

During the winter months, beekeepers tend to lose a great number of bees. Often times bee loss is due to the fact that there are too few bees in the colony to generate enough heat to keep the cluster warm. In other cases, the bees starve to death. A major cause of overwintering starvation is starting the winter months without enough honey on the hives to sustain the needs of the colony. This is a hard lesson learned for first year beekeepers, not to mention the heartbreak that comes along with it.

Overwintering starvation happens when a colony is unable to store enough honey for winter or too much honey is harvested. A colony that does not have sufficient honey stores will have to be fed. Feeding early enough in the season will give the colony an opportunity to collect, store and process the syrup before it gets too cold to do so. Always make sure your bees have adequate honey stores before old man winter comes to stay.

Research for this article derived from Bee Culture Magazine

Flow Hive donation

By Julia Mahood

My students at Lee Arrendale State Prison have heard about the Flow Hive and have asked about getting one. They are pricey items, so I applied to Flow for a [hive donation](#).

Flow has a great program that gives free equipment to bee clubs, gardens and other programs, and they make sure that the recipients have adequate support to be successful beekeepers. [This link](#) will take you to the online form. But be forewarned—it took me about three days to complete (I exaggerate, but seriously, it wasn't simple.) Six weeks later I was notified that the prison program is getting a free Classic Flow Hive six frame! This is a complete hive, but they also donate just the Flow super, which is the signature part. The rest of the hive is just a pretty Langstroth.

I encourage any club that may want to try it to apply for a free Flow. Yes, there's hype about this new product, but with a free one, your club can see what it's all about, and better help new beekeepers who find their way to beekeeping because they heard about this new equipment.



Photo Gallery



Harvesting is done for the year. Time to clean up all the equipment and put it away for the winter. But there is always a little bit of honey left in the bucket, right? Don't wash it out, give it back to the bees—they know what to do with it! And they'll leave the bucket cleaner than new.

Photo by Rick Moore



This fabulous footwear might not be appropriate for the apiary, but sure looks good elsewhere!

Photo by Julia Mahood • Shoes and feet belong to Gina Gallucci

Fun things to do at your meetings By Rick Moore

At our October meeting, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers set the neighborhood on fire! Not really, but with all the smoke produced, it was a wonder someone didn't call the fire department.

We had a contest to see which member could light a smoker first; which could produce the most smoke; and which could keep the smoker lit the longest. After a 3-way tie, a 'smoke off' winner was declared. Dennis Billings was the champion smoker lighter, and received a \$25 Visa gift card from the club.

We cleared our lungs and went back indoors for a gentler contest. The winner was the person who had a bee related picture as wallpaper on his or her cell phone. NO ONE! Argh! OK, let's regroup, the winner was Paul Smith, Jr. who was voted to have the best bee picture on his cell phone. Paul won a \$25 Visa Gift card from the club.

These two contests were a lot of fun on an otherwise slow meeting night. Try it, your club will laugh and bond with each other.

What fun things do you do at your meetings? Send them to gbanewsletters@gmail.com



HALLO-BEE-N

Show us your pictures of your scary and funny costumes, jack 'o lanterns, and decorations with a honey bee theme from Hallo-Bee-n!

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Beekeeping at Chehaw Enters a New Phase By Barbara Gagnon

For about six years, Chehaw Park in Albany, Georgia, has been in a joint venture with the SoWeGa Beekeepers Club to maintain hives at the park. The club maintained the hives, and Chehaw Park sold the honey at the park gift shop. Some hives were designated as training hives and others were managed more for honey production by the SoWeGa Beekeepers Club. All the costs and profits are divided equally between the club and the park.



Starting this spring, we moved into the next phase in the agreement, specifically establishing our own bee yard for the park. The club generously donated seven of the co-op production hives to get the park's new bee yard started. Two club members, Barbara Gagnon and Thom Carey, have agreed to be the park's beekeepers.



Six of the donated hives were populated but only three had queens. By doing walk-away splits and equalizing the hives, we created eleven hives from the six. Several months later we did a small honey harvest and split the hives again for a total of twenty hives. We re-queened all the hives with mated queens from Gardner Bees in Baxley.



We have been extremely fortunate with no losses in our hives so far. At last inspection, half of the hives were very heavy and the others are medium weight. Our next action will be to equalize the hives again, possibly get another small harvest of surplus honey, and prepare the hives for winter after the goldenrod finishes.

These hives present the perfect opportunity to investigate and compare various management practices and techniques. The number of equal hives allows us to set up control groups and experimental groups. We have several ideas for experiments after we bring the hives through winter. In the meantime, we have installed a solar-powered hive scale with data logging, donated by HiveToolMobile.com, that also tracks temperature and humidity on one of the hives.



We look forward to the possibilities this venture can provide. We will keep you posted.

Barbara Gagnon is the Lead Beekeeper at Chehaw Park

Next month Do you have a favorite newsletter (other than this one of course!) that you subscribe to?

It could be a vendor newsletter, or a website, it could be a fellow club or even your own; please tell us about your favorite newsletters, and share the link so we can all look and learn from each other. Send links to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Club News

West Georgia Beekeepers Association schedule for November and December, 2017:

November 27th – Barry Bolling / Bee Calendar

December 4th – Christmas Party

The Walton County Beekeepers Association had a booth at the City of Loganville's Autumn Fest, on Saturday, October 21st. Members Peggy Brown, Jeri Ford, Larry Compton, Carl Bishop, Linda Rivers and Susan Boss manned the booth for the day.



Pictured L-R: Peggy Brown, Jeri Ford and Susan Boss.

The **Tri-State Beekeepers Association** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We will hold 2018 officers election at our November meeting. We will also have a discussion on winter honey bee management. My famous last words will always be " Please treat for Varroa." Club president Derick E. Forester

Tri County Beekeepers will hold their next meeting on November 13, at 7pm, at Gillsville City Park, located at [7864 County Line Road, Gillesville, Georgia](#). The guest speaker will be Brutz English, who will speak about *How to prepare award winning honey*. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tara Beekeepers Association meet the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297. Guest are always welcome. Visit us online at www.tarabeekeepers.org.

At our November 20th meeting, our guest speaker will be Georgia Master Beekeeper & Welsh Honey Judge, Mary Cahill-Roberts, telling us how to make creamed honey.

One third of the **Tara Beekeepers** attended the GBA Fall Conference in Griffin last month. We learned a lot, saw old friends, and made new friends. Our club vice president, Fran Lane, set up a wonderful vendor display with unique supplies and delightful handmade, bee-themed gifts.



Mary Cahill-Robert's sister, Trish, also had a fabulous vendor display with beautiful handmade quilts and cabinetry. As it turns out, Mary Cahill-Roberts won GBA's Best in Show with a great frame of honey showcased in a cherry-wood display box made by her brother-in-law and sold by Trish along with other display boxes. Mary won First Place in three different categories of the GBA Fall Honey Show and our club president, kKif Schleifer, won First Place in the Ex-tracted Light Honey category.



One of the high points of the year for our community of beekeepers is the Annual Tara Picnic. This fun event always has a great turnout. On October 21st, about thirty of us came out to welcome new members and families, like Neil, Lucy and Elinor Waters, as we shared home-cooked dishes that many agreed were "out of this world." Doug Clack won our Smok-

er Contest and James Eckert won the Hive Lifting Contest. We also had many written games with Bee Facts and Trivia administered by our own Queen Bee, Evelyn Williams. The picnic has been held at Rick & Joann Minter's Farm for the past few years. It is a perfect location for this favored get-together and they are the perfect hosts.

Potato Creek Beekeepers Club meets on November 16th, at 7:00 PM, at the Spalding County Extension Office, located at 835 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA 30223.

The Potato Creek Beekeepers Club's 2017 Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 14th, at 7:00 PM at Crestview Baptist Church, located at 1670 N Expressway, Griffin, GA 30223. Call Brutz English at (770) 843-2110 or email him at brutzenglish@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

The **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association** will meet on November 8, 2017, at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Mershon Hall at 7:00pm. Our featured speaker will be Keith Fielder.

MABA Holiday Party: a get-together with beekeeper friends at Manuel's Tavern in Virginia Highlands, is set for Thursday, December 7th at 7:00PM.

MABA Short Course will be held on January 20, 2018, from 7:45am to 4:00pm, at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. This event is great for anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper, and will feature experts and master beekeepers with the latest information to help get started in keeping bees. [Register now](#) before the class fills up. Great as a gift too!

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association will be meeting on the first Thursday in November, (Nov. 2nd) at 7pm in the First Baptist Church of Lavonia (95 W Bowman St, Lavonia, GA 30553). Our speaker will be Dan Long, teaching us about observation hives.

Lake Country Beekeepers Association is proud to welcome Dr. Jamie Ellis, Monday, November 20th at 6:30 pm. Dr. Ellis will speak on "What is killing our bees and what can we do about it." You're invited to attend and to meet other beekeepers at The Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad Street, Sparta, GA,

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association was busy in October. Besides preparing our hives for fall and choosing a Varroa treatment, many of our members attended and enjoyed the GBA Fall Conference in Griffin.



It was there that our vice president, Roger Kicklighter presented a check for \$500.00 to Jennifer Berry of the University of Georgia Bee Lab, in support of that team's valuable research and outreach. Our club challenges other beekeeping clubs to consider matching this donation. Another \$150.00 contribution was made to the Buzz Fund in memory of John and Theresa Lamon. This young couple was active in beekeeping and as club members, and loved throughout their communities in Putnam and Washington Counties.



At our regularly scheduled meeting we enjoyed hosting Slade and Kristen Jarrett of Jarrett Apiaries. www.jarrettbees.com. Slade offered tips and stories about the many adventures (funny in hindsight) of commercial beekeeping. He, his wife and their son, operate hives in northeast and southwest Georgia. The operation is focused on feeding, package and queen production, equipment needs for the hive, moving bees and honey extraction. While many of our members are satisfied with keeping 1-5 hives, this presentation still offered ideas for standardizing equipment, hive treatments and splits, nectar sources and honey sales.

Henry County Beekeepers Association meets on November 12th, at 7:00 PM, at the Henry County Extension Office, located at 97 Lake Dow Road, McDonough, GA 30254.

The Henry County Beekeepers Association's 2017 Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, at 7:00 PM at Bethany Baptist Church, located at 4 N Bethany Road, McDonough, GA 30252. Call Danny Harvey at (404) 312-1235 or email him at harv8690@att.net to RSVP or for more information.

Heart of GA Beekeepers made nominations for officers for 2018 at the October meeting. Elections will be at the November meeting. On the "lighter" side, members competed in a smoker lighting competition, and judged who had the best picture of a bee on a cell phone. Dennis Billings and Paul Smith, Jr, won the contests respectively, and each were given a \$25 Visa gift card from the club.



The American Beekeeping Federation 2017 Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, was the guest of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association in October. Maia visited the Georgia National Fair and answered questions about honey bees at Jesse and Hazel McCurdy's honey booth during the fair.

At **The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County** meeting last month, we learned techniques from Julia Mahood that will help us produce Creamed Honey and Propolis Tinctures. What a great time of the year to learn these now that our honey is harvested and the cold season is soon upon us. Julia did a great job with her talk and handouts.



We also held our Honey Show for the year. We had good participation from our members. Nicholas Weaver was our Welsh Honey Judge. The photos were outstanding along with "bee gadgets", but the honey was the outstanding submittal. Derek Fowler walked away with the Best of Show award for his Wildflower Honey.

Our next meeting will be November 14, at 7:00PM, at Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, GA. Harold Lanier will speak to us about preparing our bees for the winter, and what to do when the weather starts to warm up next year. It's also time again to elect our officers.



At the GBA Fall Conference, **Forsyth Beekeepers Club's** favorite go-to guy, Mr. Bill Dunn, gave a very informative lecture on problems with your queens. Mr. Bill heads up our queen rearing class every year along with our various bee schools.

He is a wealth of knowledge and Forsyth Beekeepers Club values him more than he can ever imagine!

The GBA website contains an ongoing **speaker list**. Here you can find names of people who like to speak to bee clubs.

To see the list, [click here](#). The list includes names, contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer.



DECEMBER 2017

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling The Honey

EDITED BY JULIA MAHOOD
AND RICK MOORE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. My family's Thanksgiving dinner included rolls made with honey! Now the December holidays are upon us. Whatever holiday you celebrate in December, whether it's Hanukkah, Christmas, or simply the arrival of the winter solstice, I hope you have a lovely time with friends and family.

The GBA has something to celebrate as, so far, our application documents for the honey bee license plate are now being studied and hopefully accepted by the people down at the legislature. Our legislative committee, chaired by Gail Dean and Tim Doherty, is hard at work to accomplish getting a bill passed to allow the honey bee plate to become available to all of us and our non-beekeeping friends as well.

Within our Georgia Beekeepers Association, we have also been working hard. We heard your voices at the fall conference and the bylaws committee of Brutz English, Tim Hoffman, Harvest Hoffman and me went right to work the day after the conference to rewrite the bylaws again. We want you all to be happy and to feel like we have represented you well in how you'd like this club to operate.

It's important for you to read and understand the proposed bylaws. Here is the [annotated version \(click here\)](#) which includes our thinking in blue text to explain the changes we have developed. You'll notice that the ability of each local club to name a representative to the board remains unchanged from the current bylaws. We do encourage you in naming a representative to the board to follow the process laid out in the bylaws.

The GBA Board has voted to have a special members' meeting in the spring at the conference in February to vote on the acceptance of these proposed bylaws. We want to do this sooner than later because so many aspects of the new bylaws will be of benefit to GBA now.

In order to have more contact and to get more input from the local clubs, we divided the clubs among the directors on the board. We only had four directors and 43 clubs. So the elected Board voted as per the current bylaws to approve the appointment of two additional directors. The two appointed and approved unanimously by the Board are Tim Hoffman and Sophia Price. You'll remember that each of them were on the ballot for director at the fall conference.

We assigned about seven clubs each to the now six directors on the GBA Board for the purposes of better communication between the clubs and the GBA Board of Directors. Your club president should have heard from the director assigned to you by the time you get this newsletter. Please make use of their contact - ask them questions you have about GBA; tell them what you need from GBA; make suggestions or share ideas you have.

It is my personal wish for GBA that we develop much better communication throughout the organization so that we can function fully and well.

Happy holidays, Everyone,
Bee well,

Linda T

Cindy Hodges – a work in constant progress

By Holly Bayendor McConnell

Many of you know who Cindy Hodges is, and how she embodies the perfect worker bee. She is everywhere at once, seeing to everything, trying to accomplish every task, committing to everything she can. Dedicated to bees, beekeeping and beekeepers, she is a powerful force within our club, and has been for well over a decade. I have the great honor of having Cindy as my mentor, as more than a beekeeper, a role model too.

I met Cindy at the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Short Course in January 2010. I was about to embark on the adventure we call beekeeping, and I know now that had it not been for Cindy, my journey would have been a great deal different.

Cindy seemed to sweep me up, under her wing, and I was grateful. I only knew what I'd seen on tv and from the short course. I met her again at the first hive inspection of the season at the Dunwoody Nature Center. I met Jay Parsons that day too, and the two of them showed me, and several others how to actually open a hive and lift out frames, and talked to us about what to do and how to do it (slowly! carefully!).

When I had questions I called Cindy first – she always answered me and advised me. “The nectar flow is off – feed!” “Your bees are crowded – add supers!” She'd look at photos I'd send her – Is this a queen cell? What should I do? “No. It's burr comb. Don't do anything.”

In May of that year Cindy became a Master Beekeeper. I remember Jerry Wallace, president of MABA at the time, congratulating her, saying: “Cindy won't admit this, but it's a great accomplishment.”

In the following years, Cindy took on the role of vice president of MABA, and in July of 2012, she urged me to take the UGA Beekeeping Certification test. I did, as did many others (also at Cindy's urging), and passed. Cindy was always keen for everyone to learn more about bees. She encouraged us (and still does) to expand our view of beekeeping, to learn not just from her, or any one person, but many others. “Every beekeeper does things differently. Go to all the hive inspections, not just mine.” Such valuable advice! I visited Jerry Wallace's inspection at the Atlanta Zoo, and learned so much from him. I attended the hive inspection with Linda Tillman and Julia Mahood, and discovered “draping” the hive during an inspection, an invaluable method I often employ.



It's well known that Cindy knows just about everyone in the beekeeping community. She is famous for it. Her knack at securing speakers for our club is legendary. Everyone from Keith Delaplane to Tom Seeley, Jamie Ellis, and Dwight Wells. And not just the PhDs. She also makes sure we are exposed to the practical as well, Keith Fielder, Cindi Ball, Tom Rearick, and Julia Mahood. Cindy has made MABA what I've heard described as a world-class organization. I couldn't agree more.



About four years ago, Cindy asked me to give a bee talk to a class of young children, in her stead. I was very nervous about doing this, but Cindy talked me through it. She told me how to begin, and assisted me with resources for the talk. Club observation hive in hand, honey for tasting, a slideshow ready to present, and large photos and props to display (and a husband willing to help) I did my first of now many presentations.

Every time I give a talk, I think of Cindy's advice on how to start: "Say your name – I'm Holly Bayendor, I'm a Certified Beekeeper, I'm representing Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. There, that's one minute of your 59 minutes gone in a flash.

Do your slideshow, and don't uncover the observation hive until you're finished or you'll lose them. You'll be great!"

Cindy became president of MABA in 2013, and out of necessity, she stayed in the role for three years instead of two, a feat I fully appreciate now as I come to the end of my term. When she began her presidency, she asked me to chair MABA's brand new Junior Beekeeper Program. She and Melissa Bondurant had been tasked with taking over the program from GBA, and making it our own. They did an incredible job, and 5 years later we have expanded the program, but have kept its core true to Cindy's vision: Teaching children about bees, not to fear them, but to wonder at them, and to have fun suiting up and holding a frame of live bees. The program is extremely popular. I know that we've had at least one child go on to be Certified at Young Harris.

Cindy invited me to stay on the board of directors throughout her presidency as I offered to take on the speakers' bureau, as well. I found out just how many members of our community are keen to have beekeepers present to them. People really want to know and learn about bees.

Toward the end of her term, Cindy asked me to replace her as president. I accepted. But much like when she asked me to give a talk in her stead, I needed her guidance. I didn't think I was qualified for the job. She assured me I was, and told me I'd be great at it. I hope I have been. In my first year I leaned on Cindy's expertise a great deal, and she was invaluable for guiding me through the protocols and pitfalls. We didn't always agree, but I drew strength from her wisdom and her experience. In decisions I needed to make my first thought was: "What would Cindy do?" I didn't always do what I thought Cindy would do, but she was always the standard I referred to.

Just as she had helped me to become a confident beekeeper, she helped me become a confident leader, too. I appreciate immensely all that Cindy has done for me, and for MABA. She was and still is my mentor, and she has mentored many.



This past year Cindy became one of only two Master Craftsman Beekeepers in Georgia. She was chosen as the 2012 GBA Beekeeper of Year. It was my pleasure to offer Cindy a Lifetime Honorary Membership earlier this month. And, in view of her dedication to teaching young (and not-so-young beekeepers) I have asked MABA's board of directors to help me establish the Cindy Hodges Young Beekeepers Scholarship.

Thank you Cindy, for everything you've done for our club, and still do.



BEEKEEPING: A HOBBY, A TRADE, OR A LIFESTYLE?

By Jeremy Puckett, Dooly State Prison

When you first heard about honey bees and beekeeping, what was your first thought? I am willing to guess that it had something to do with the various products of the hive, primarily honey. However, there is so much more than that, as I'm sure that you discovered the more you became involved with honey bees and beekeeping.

When I first heard that beekeeping was being offered as an On the Job Training program with an actual certification from the University of Georgia and Young Harris College bee labs, here at Dooly State Prison, I'll admit that I was bewildered and intrigued. Prior to that point, I'd never had a conscious thought about honey bees or beekeeping, much less beekeeping as a career. Before that point in time, I hadn't even considered where the honey that we buy in most of our stores came from. I simply took for granted that it was there and always would be, like with so many other things in life, at one price or another.

Although, thanks to Ms Jennifer Berry at the University of Georgia Bee Lab, and to Welsh Honey Judge Mr 'Bear' Kelley, and to the president of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association, Mr Rick Moore, I now know that most of the stuff that we buy in the big stores, like Walmart, is adulterated and really is on the verge of not being able to be called honey at all.

Little did I know that honey bees are actually on the decline, close to being endangered, and that they are the primary pollinator for most of the food and plants that we enjoy today. Can you imagine what we would eat without them? Imagine gruel, I've never tried it, but from what I hear, it is some pretty disgusting stuff.

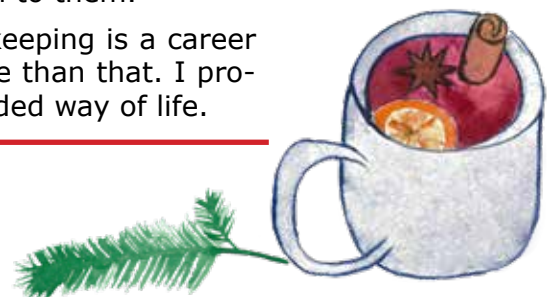
Which leads us to the need for beekeepers, not just in the United States, but worldwide. We need them in whatever form they choose. Whether simply managing a couple of colonies as a hobby, using the honey and the other various hive products as gifts for family and friends. Or managing 10-50 colonies as a sideline business to help supplement their income. Or managing hundreds or even thousands of colonies with the help of employees as full-time self employment. Or even the ones that go even further than that, and study our favorite little ladies, like the people at the University of Georgia and Young Harris bee labs, so that the rest of us can better understand what exactly is going on in our colonies.

The need for beekeepers in whatever form is great. And that is why I am grateful to 'Bear' Kelley, Jennifer Berry, Rick Moore, and Dan Bergold. To 'Bear' Kelley for introducing beekeeping into the Georgia prison system and for sharing his passion for honey with us. To Jennifer Berry and the staff at the UGA Bee Lab, and Young Harris for allowing us to become Certified Beekeepers behind the fence. And to Rick Moore and Dan Bergold for taking their time to come into an environment that they knew nothing about, to spend time teaching individuals that society has written off to show us that there are people who do care about us and our betterment other than just our families. They didn't ask us what our charges or histories were. It didn't matter to them, we were simply people who had made mistakes in life and were now trying to get their lives back on track by making better decisions. It became simply about the bees and our shared passion for them.

I am sure that none of us in the Georgia prison system would have become involved in beekeeping and several of us, myself included, wouldn't be considering opening their own commercial apiaries upon release, had it not been for the effects of all those involved with getting beekeeping started in the Georgia prison system and then the individuals prisons themselves. Thank you for that.

More importantly, it was their love and passion for honey bees and beekeeping. It gave me the drive and desire to do something better with my time and my life. They gave me the desire to pass on the knowledge that they passed on to me and had been passed on to them.

Which is why I say that beekeeping is a hobby, and that beekeeping is a career for those who choose it, but I propose that it is so much more than that. I propose that beekeeping is a lifestyle, a culture. And a much needed way of life.



A Beekeeper's 12 Days Of Christmas

By Tracy Fortson, Certified Beekeeper

ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF
CHRISTMAS MY HONEY
GAVE TO ME....

TWELVE WORKERS BUZZIN'

ELEVEN ACRES BLOOMING

TEN JARS OF HONEY

NINE NURSE BEES FEEDING

EIGHT DRONES A-FLYIN'

SEVEN HIVE TOOLS PRYIN'

SIX SMOKERS SMOKING'

FIVE... BREEDER... QUEENS

FOUR STING-PROOF VEILS

THREE PAIRS OF GLOVES

TWO LANGSTROTH HIVES

AND A NUC FOR MY APIARY



This holiday treat came from the Lee Arrendale Honey Comb Club's newsletter!

Honey-filled recipes for the Holidays

Canadian Buttermilk Honey Rolls

The recipe is from the [Book of Bread](#) by Judith and Evan Jones.

2 cups buttermilk

1 T active dry yeast

2 T honey

2 tsp coarse salt

2 T butter

1/4 tsp baking soda

4 - 5 cups white flour, unbleached.

Soften the yeast in 1/3 cup of the warmed buttermilk (barely warmed to room temp). I use a tiny whisk and stir in a whisk-full of honey. While the yeast is starting to bubble, put the 2 T honey, salt, and butter (cut into small pieces) into the rest of the buttermilk and warm it about 1 1/2 minutes in the microwave to start melting the butter. Once that is all stirred together, add the soda to the buttermilk mixture. In the bowl of a mixer. When the yeast is bubbly, add it to the buttermilk mixture and begin to add the flour about 1/2 cup at a time. When it gets hard to mix, switch to the dough hook and knead for about 6 minutes. Pour dough out onto a floured counter and finish the kneading with your hands.

Roll the dough out about 3/4 inch thick. Using a biscuit cutter, cut circles out of the dough. Dip them in melted butter, place them about 1 1/2 inches apart in a greased cake pan (usually makes 2 1/2 cake pans). Once all the rolls are in the pans, cover the pans and allow the dough to rise for about 1 1/2 hours. Meanwhile preheat the oven to 400. When rolls have risen, bake for 20 minutes. You can really taste the honey in the rolls.

These are a hit at any holiday (or any) meal. And the beauty of them is that they only rise once which shortens the process.

Linda D. Tillman

President, Georgia Beekeepers Association



Honey citrus sweet potatoes

These have been a family favorite of ours for years. I believe once you try these sweet potatoes, you'll forever reach for the Honey instead of the customary brown sugar. Enjoy!

6 large yams or sweet potatoes baked until just tender, cool and peel. (do not over bake)

Combine 3 tbsp cornstarch and 3 tbsp water in small bowl, set aside.

In medium saucepan over medium heat, bring to boil:

1 1/2 c honey

1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/8 tsp nutmeg

2 tsp. Lemon juice

1 1/2 tsp grated lemon peel

1/4 c orange juice

1 1/2 tsp grated orange peel

1 tsp salt

Then add cornstarch and water mixture and cook, stirring constantly, until clear.

Remove from heat and add:

6 tbsp butter

Freshly ground black pepper.

Place portion sized potatoes in lightly buttered casserole dish, pour honey citrus sauce over potatoes and bake at 375 for 15-25 minutes.

Tip: They taste even better if you make a few days prior, refrigerate and then bake.

Katie Goodman,

President, Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association



THE IMPORTANCE OF HONEY SHOWS

By Bear Kelley, Senior Welsh Honey Judge

Beekeepers have been showing off their hive products for centuries and the benefits far outweigh the labor and sweat involved in preparing for the event. First and foremost, having a blue ribbon for a recent crop of honey or beeswax sure sends the sales skyward; but most importantly, it gives the customer confidence that the product is pure, clean and fit for family consumption. I have observed many a market where honey and other hive products were being sold, that the packaging and presentation were far below the basic standards for food products. Bottles and jars were being re-used, were unclean and the fill level was below the fair market price. Furthermore, the labeling was incorrect, false or otherwise misleading.

Beekeepers who participate in competition tend to ensure that all aspects of the product are of the highest standard for the market and are concerned that their customers are getting the best merchandise that they can for the money spent. Since the honey is a consumable item, the health of the customer is of most importance. Not only to keep them coming back for more, but to keep them from coming back with a lawyer. Participating in competition has taught me a great deal about the business of honey. The minute you sell your first jar of the liquid gold, you become liable for the contents. Each show that you are involved in teaches you more and more about the market and the product. It also instills in you, the producer, the importance and seriousness of the business. Just operating an apiary and bottling the honey is not enough to succeed with a backyard hobby, small business or grow into a major income.

With today's honey market being flooded with adulterated honey from China and unknown sources, it is so much more important that local honey producers follow the exacting standards that competition creates and educate their customers to the benefits of acquiring their honey from a local source. We need to spend time in our community showing honey and talking with the public and making them understand that cheap honey on the store shelf is in fact "cheap honey".

Advertising with blue ribbons and certifications are beneficial and prove that you are sincere, proud and stand behind your product.

Good Food Awards

By *Mary Cahill-Roberts, MN, CPNP • Master Beekeeper, GA • Senior Welsh Honey Judge*

There were quite a few entrants this year for the Good Food Awards, and Swarm Chasers has placed as a finalist again this year. I also want to point out and congratulate the other two Georgia Finalists, Virginia and Carl Webb from Mountain honey for their sourwood comb honey and Sweet Grass Dairy (who also placed for cheese).

Good Food Awards will announce winners in the next week or so! I collected my honey from my backyard and community gardens in Austell and Mableton, so am really excited about going up against those from all over the country.

We were a comb honey finalist in 2015, but not an extracted honey and we did not participate last year.

BUZZ FUND GRANT

GBA's Buzz Fund is money which has been donated from individuals and Georgia beekeeping clubs over several years. The purpose of the Buzz Fund is to "support research in the beekeeping community." We have had three grant requests in 2017. Because we didn't use up all of our funds, we still have a little bit of this money left and are able to handle other grants now. Generally local clubs in GBA give donations to increase the Buzz Fund. Donations are easily made on our website. When you click the link, then choose the "Donate" button on the upper right of the page. Traditionally clubs and individuals present a check in person for their donations at our fall meetings and received our enthusiastic applause. Of course, we are glad to accept contributions at any time. Please read the grant application form - you may come up with a worthy idea to apply for funds for your own work. We are hoping that individuals will donate to our Buzz Fund in this giving season. We all benefit from the positive impact of inspired new beekeepers, habitat improvement, creative honey bee programs and new research.

Follow [THIS LINK](#) to go to the GBA Buzz Fund page.

Photo Gallery



A bee themed wind chime upcycled from a wine bottle.
Emily Heath



Photo by *Kevin Williamson*



Of course mine is a female beekeeper!- *Linda Tillman*

Book Review

by Steve Nofs

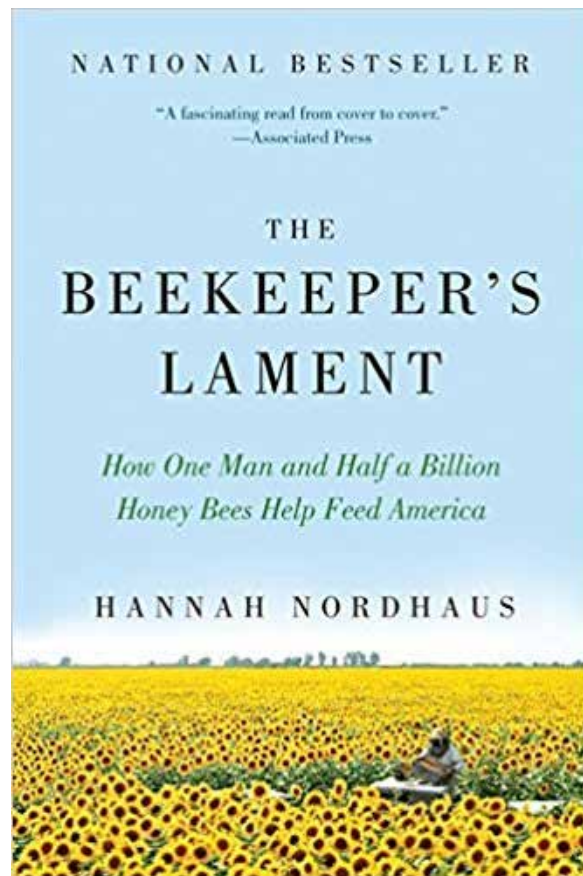
Part of my preparation for any road trip longer than 3 hours is to select an audible book to make the trip more bearable. I never considered a beekeeping book for such a task, as a topic even as interesting as beekeeping can't compete with the action-packed stories of Tom Clancy or legal thrillers of John Grisham. But I took a chance on one that caught my eye, and the risk was generously rewarded to the point where that is the only audible book that I actually listened to twice and will probably listen to again. The book is "The Beekeeper's Lament – How One Man and Half a Billion Honey Bees Help Feed America" by Hannah Nordhaus.

It's loosely structured as a journal of the working life of John Miller who runs a large (10,000+ colonies) migratory beekeeping operation. The real draw of this book is how Nordhaus expertly weaves into the story not just the daily perils of an operation of that size, but also the history of beekeeping, the biology of bees (and their pests), and even Denis Anderson's breakthrough revelation that the scientific community had been studying the wrong species of varroa in the early days of mite research. There is a lengthy description of Langstroth's breakthrough in hive design, detailed descriptions of hazards faced by the earliest migratory operations, and even the tale of the New World's first commercial beekeeper – a 17th century entrepreneur who incidentally lost his shirt.

Then there was the guy who showed up to all the big beekeeping meetings in fancy clothes and expensive cars and acting otherwise very "unbeekeeper-like". It was later revealed that amongst the hives he was hauling around the country was large amounts of drugs where he assumed no law enforcement officials would dare to look.

The most striking parts of the book are her descriptions of the plethora of maladies facing modern commercial beekeepers, any one of which could destroy their businesses that most of them have carried on for numerous generations. She makes wonderful use of descriptive language such as how they continually "dance on the razor's edge of failure" to do what they love. Then there is the "tiny leviathan" that they thought might wipe them all out and the nearly psychotic reaction to the sight of the very first varroa mite Miller saw in his colonies – and the impending doom it represented. This was soon followed by the state bee inspector's official notification that his hives were infested with varroa. Had this discovery occurred merely months earlier, they would have destroyed his hives and his operation in a vain attempt to stop the spread of varroa.

If you're looking for a good read about bees and beekeepers that's outside the mold of all the how-to books and doesn't read like a text book, I would highly recommend this enjoyable, informational, and incredibly entertaining book.



Next month

In our January edition of Spilling the Honey, show us how your bees enjoyed the holidays.

Send photos and stories to gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Practical Beekeeping 2018

The Pickens County Extension Service and local beekeepers (Randy Tudor and BJ Weeks) are hosting a 5 week course on beekeeping for beginning beekeepers. The course will cover starting beekeeping, building equipment, understanding bee pests, medications, strategies for keeping bees, producing and extracting honey. A strong emphasis will be on understanding the bees and processes involved. The class will finish with a daytime hands-on workshop in the bees. This is a class for beginners who wish to understand and start keeping honeybees. This is an annual event started in 1997. Note: 5 evening classes with an extra evening reserved for weather events.

Place: Pickens County Chamber of Commerce 500 Stegall Drive, Jasper, GA 30143

Date: January 2-February 6, 2018

Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00pm

Cost: \$65 per person - \$100 with spouse or child

Preregistration: Class often fills up in November-Preregister to be in the class

Instructors: BJ Weeks and Randy Tudor

weeksworks@gmail.com , rtudor@worldnet.att.net

Donation to Pickens County 4-H (camp scholarship) will be made from class fees.



By Brutz English

The GBA Spring Conference will be here before you know it! Leave your honey and wax at the house for this one, and bring on the mead and ale, the cakes and breads, and all the arts and crafts! The Spring Artisan's Show is the place to show off our many beekeeping products beyond just honey and wax. Not only is there the glory of possibly taking home one of our coveted Blue Ribbons, but this year's show is sporting nearly \$3,000 in potential prize money too!

Did I mention this year's show is going to be bigger and better than last year's? We are bringing back old favorites like Mead, Beer & Ale, Honey Cake, Photography, Arts, and Crafts! We are also adding the following new classes to this year's show: Bread, Confections, Needlecraft, Gadgets, Notions, Potions & Lotions, Electronic Media, & Poetry. So come on out all you brewers, bakers, artists, and crafters! We are going to have a great and exciting show this February at the Spring Conference, and we look forward to seeing you all there!

*Complete show rules and specified recipes can be found on the GBA website under the "Events" tab, and are also following this article

Georgia Beekeeper Association • 2018 Spring Artisans Show, General Rules

1. Once entry items have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, items may not be altered.
2. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, competitors may not enter the area where the entries have been placed.
3. The Secretary, Stewards or Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.
4. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of entry acceptance. This is to ensure as close to a blind judging as possible.
5. All entries must be produced by the contestant within the last calendar year with the exception of meads.
6. Only current members of the Georgia Beekeepers Association are eligible to enter the honey show and must sign an affidavit stating that entries were produced by the entrant.
7. Each member may make only one entry per class. Duplication (same product) of entries by families is prohibited.
8. In instances where the exhibit may qualify for consideration in multiple classes, the Exhibitor shall have the final decision as to which class to enter the exhibit. This selection will not be overturned by the judge(s), and said exhibit will be judged based on the criteria set forth in the selected class.

Awards

It is the intention that ribbons will be given in all classes even if there is only one entry in the class. However, in order to receive an award that entry must be worthy of placement. Entry into a class does not guarantee an award. Cash prizes will be awarded to Best in Show, First, Second and Third place winners in each class. The decisions of the judges are final. Any contestant may meet with the class judge to discuss their entry and ask questions. Senior judges will act as a referee and have final say in any matter pertaining to the contest. Contestants found willfully cheating or purposefully altering or disfiguring an entry for the purpose of questioning the validity of judging will be permanently disqualified from the Georgia State Honey Show.

Awards for the Spring Artisan's Show are as follows:

In each category: • First place \$100 • Second Place \$30 • Third Place \$20 • Best in Show \$250

Class 1: Sweet Mead

Class 2: Dry Mead

Class 3: Beer and Ale

Class 4: Honey Beverages (alcoholic)

Class 5: Honey Beverages (non-alcoholic)

Class 6: Honey Cake (traditional)

Class 7: Honey Cake (open recipe)

Class 8: A cooked item containing honey as selected by the Show Committee

Class 9: Breads

Class 10: Confections

Class 11: Artwork related to beekeeping

Class 12: Poetry

Class 13: Crafts related to beekeeping

Class 14: Needlecraft

Class 15: Notions, Potions, & Lotions

Class 16: Gadgets

Class 17: Photographs related to beekeeping

Class 18: Electronic Media

Class 1: Sweet Mead & Class 2: Dry Mead

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a mead prepared by the Exhibitor. However, entrants may submit one entry in each of these classes. An entry consists of one, clear glass standard 750ml wine bottle. Punt bottles are acceptable as long as they are standard pattern wine bottles. Tee Corks are the required, and only acceptable, closure; traditional inserted corks will not be accepted into the show. Mead should be filled to 5/8 of an inch above the top of the shoulder of the bottle. All mead must be produced from honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: Cleanliness, fill, color, clarity, lack of sediment, aroma, body and flavor.

Class 3: Beer and Ale (Honey Based)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a beer or ale prepared by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of one glass standard 12oz or 16oz beer bottle. Clear glass is preferable, however colored glass is acceptable. Standard, unmarked crimped closures or lightening closures will be accepted. Bottle should be filled to midpoint between the bottom of the cap and the top of the shoulder of the bottle.

All beer and ale must be produced from honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: Cleanliness, fill, color, aroma, body and flavor.

Class 4: Honey Beverages (alcoholic) & Class 5: Honey Beverages (non-alcoholic)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a honey beverage prepared by the Exhibitor. However, entrants may submit one entry in each of these classes. An entry consists of one glass standard 12oz or 16oz beer bottle. Clear glass is preferable, however colored glass is acceptable. Standard, unmarked crimped closures or lightening closures will be accepted. Bottle should be filled to midpoint between the bottom of the cap and the top of the shoulder of the bottle. All honey beverages must be produced from honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: Cleanliness, fill, color, aroma, body and flavor.

Class 6: Honey Cake (traditional)

The entrant may submit one honey cake. The cake is to be made according to the recipe below, and may not be deviated from in any way. The recipe must be followed exactly as written and all entries will be tasted. Absolutely no flavoring agents are to be added to the recipe. Cakes are to be presented dome up, unsliced, on a cardboard base, in a standard white cardboard cake box. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma and flavor.

*See the GBA website for the recipe.

Class 7: Honey Cake (open recipe)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a cake baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of one (1) standard size cake, or three (3) cupcakes. Cakes may be, but are not required to be, iced or glazed. The recipe for the entry must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented on a cardboard base, in a standard white cardboard cake box. All entries will be tasted. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients & procedure) must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 8: A Cooked Item Containing Honey as Selected by The Show Committee

The entrant may submit one item according to the special instructions posted prior to the show. The recipe must be followed exactly as written and all entries will be tasted. The item is to be presented on a plain white paper plate, and enclosed in a zip-top bag. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, and conformation to the recipe.

*See the GBA website for the recipe.

Class 9: Breads:

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a bread baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of one (1) standard size loaf, or three (3) rolls, biscuits, muffins, or mini-loaves. The recipe for the entry must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented on a plain white paper plate, and enclosed in a zip-top bag. All entries will be tasted. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients & procedure) must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 10: Confections

A confection is any pastry, pie, tart, petit four, candy, chocolate, or other sweet food or delicacy, not otherwise encompassed in another class in this show. The Exhibitor may submit one example of a confection prepared by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of three (3) to six (6) servings. The recipe for the entry must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented on a plain white paper plate, and enclosed in a zip-top bag. All entries will be tasted. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients & procedure) must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 11: Artwork Related to Beekeeping

Artwork is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, often in a visual form such as (but no way limited to) painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related artwork of their own composition. The artwork must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The artwork must be mounted or freestanding in design. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 12: Poetry This class includes the literary art of rhythmical composition for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related poetry of their own creation, of not more than 200 words or 20 lines, whichever is greater, excluding title line. All poems may be either neatly handwritten or typed, single or double line spacing. Poems may be of any form, or style. All entries must be original works. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*Copyright of each poem remains with the author, but the GBA has the unrestricted right to publish the winning poems in its newsletter and on its website, plus unrestricted rights to use the winning poems and any related material for PR purposes.

Class 13: Crafts Related to Beekeeping

A craft is a pastime or a profession that requires particular skill and knowledge of a specialized field or subject. Craftsmanship typically denotes experience, knowledge, skill, and expertise in making things by hand. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related craftwork of their own composition. The craftwork must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The craftwork must be mounted or freestanding in design. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 14: Needlecraft

This class includes any decorative or artistic exhibit of needlecraft, some examples of which might include knitting, crochet, lace, embroidery, quilting, cross-stitch, needlepoint, or weaving, relating to honeybees or beekeeping. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related needlecraft of their own creation. The back of the work must be accessible for inspection. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 15: Notions, Potions, & Lotions

An Exhibitor may submit one example of any health, bath, or beauty product, or any cleaner, polish, tincture, compound, or concoction of their own creation. The recipe for the entry must include honey, beeswax, and/or propolis produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented in a re-sealable container appropriate to the item. All entries will be sampled. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, texture, aroma, tactile feel, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients & procedure) must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 16: Gadgets

A gadget is a mechanical or electronic device or tool, especially one of an ingenious or novel nature. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related gadget of their own creation. The gadget must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original creation of the Exhibitor. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: craftsmanship, ingenuity, functionality, creativity, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item and its operation must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 17: Photographs Related to Beekeeping

An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related photography of their own composition. The photograph must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The photograph must be mounted in a free-standing frame. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*A 3" x 5" white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry. No name should appear on the card.

Class 18: Electronic Media

Electronic media is any media that can be generated, viewed, or shared with an audience via an electronic device. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related electronic media of their own creation. The Exhibitor must provide the appropriate or necessary viewing apparatus along with the entry. Entries which take time to observe, such as videos, gifs, or other recordings, may not exceed ten (10) minutes in duration. All entries must be original works. The entry must not have previously been entered in a GBA honey contest. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*Copyright of submitted media remains with the author, but the GBA has the unrestricted right to publish the winning media in its newsletter and on its website, plus unrestricted rights to use the winning media and any related material for PR purposes.

*Any questions regarding any class, or any provision of any of the rules, should be forwarded to the Honey Show Committee Chairperson, Brutz English, at brutzenglish@gmail.com or by telephone at (770) 843-2110.



Tara Beekeepers Association Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Georgia Power Building, [752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297](https://www.google.com/maps/place/752+Main+Street,+Forest+Park,+GA+30297). Guest are always welcome.

www.tarabeekeepers.org

Kickoff 2018 with a thoughtful & introspective presentation

Dr. Keith Delaplane, MBE, Professor, Walter B. Hill Fellow & Honey Bee Program Director, University of Georgia

Monday, January 15th, 7pm

[752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297](https://www.google.com/maps/place/752+Main+Street,+Forest+Park,+GA+30297)

Please come and join us for this presentation and stick around to socialize and enjoy snacks afterwards.

The Tara Beekeepers are excited to welcome the newest members of our club as they each prepare for the 2018 season. Lonnie & Sherri Denton, David & Connie Lipham, Richard & Erin Stephens, George & Deb Myers, Brigitte Mebius, and Isabella De Luna Garza all recently attended the Tara Beekeepers Adult Short Course along with fellow club member, Chuck McCord. During the day-long program the attendees discovered that they were unified in their concern for the environment and belief that keeping bees seems like a good way to contribute in a positive manner. Brigitte is the Gardening Teacher at an elementary/middle school and

Isabella is a high school junior who has worked with bees for the past few years. Our club is very committed to helping them share their knowledge about honeybees within their educational communities.



In November, Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge, Mary Cahill-Roberts, gave a presentation about making creamed honey. She inspired more than a few of us to give it a try.

Our club President, Keif Schleifer, worked closely with science teacher Chris Wood to give an integrative presentation to fifty 4th grade students at Sugar Hill Elementary on Balancing Ecosystems: Learning About Honey Bees.

Finally, we'll close out the year with our annual Christmas Dinner (and crazy gift exchange, exchange, exchange). Some lucky member will also take home a unique, hand-crafted hive creat-



ed by PN Williams and friends. This year, the hive is a replica of an old, one-room school house with a metal roof. It has a bell tower with a bell that really works. Last year's hive was a delightful barn with a cedar-shingled gambrel roof. The year before that, PN created an old-fashioned country church complete with a steeple. Every compo-

nent of that have was put together with dowels... even the frames. These hives are highly treasured and even make Santa a bit envious!

Our club family experienced real highs and lows this year. We came through it all just fine though, because, like the honey bees we love, we clustered up tight when we needed to be there to support one another through injuries and death. We all got excited about our brood, the newborns and great-grandchildren that are growing fast under our watch. We produced prize-winning honey both here and in Florida. A few of us traveled far returning to tell the rest of our colony about the good-stuff out there. We learned about plants and flowers and all took some home to feed the family bees. Many of our members filled various roles and took up a variety of responsibilities to help make all our activities happen and teach others about the importance of honeybees. And we even sent out a few guard bees to sting if they had to protect our hive.

We hope that you, too, have found a club to engage with and grow as a beekeeper within this community. We will attest to the sweet rewards that come with this kind of camaraderie. Remember, our doors are always open to you. Have a Honey of a Holiday—we'll see you in 2018!

The Macon Beekeepers Association held their 1st Annual Black Jar Honey Contest on October 5, 2017. It was an extremely successful show with 11 entries and a huge range of honey colors, flavors, and nectar sources. All the attendees tasted all the entries and there was much discussion of not just likes and dislikes, but the myriad of flavor nuances and sequences of different flavors exhibited by each entry. But in the end the winner was an awesome tasting honey entered by Al Godfrey and Merrie Lowe. They can now proudly claim that they have the best tasting honey in Macon! Con-

gratulations to Al and Merrie!

Also at the meeting, the club discussed how black jar contests are conducted and how to taste honey – detecting the various flavors as described by the American Honey Tasting Society. There was also a discussion about the world wide black jar honey contest sponsored by the Center for Honeybee Research in Asheville, NC. See <http://chbr.org/Home.aspx> for details. Winners are chosen in many categories including by region and by honey variety. There are cash prizes. The Grand Prize Winner will of course get bragging rights as the "Best Tasting Honey in the World" and their name forever inscribed in the gigantic Black Jar Trophy.



Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, GA, installed an observation hive at their school. Marcel Lundy and club president Steve Nofs installed the bees. The Macon newspaper, the Telegraph did a great job with the write up and the students who spearheaded the effort did a great job in the Telegraph's video. Follow this link to see the newspaper article. <http://www.macon.com/news/local/education/article180609736.html>

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association meeting was held on November 8, 2017, at Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Mershon Hall at 7:00pm. Our featured speaker was Keith Fielder.

MABA Holiday Party: a get-together with beekeeper friends at Manuel's Taven in Virginia Highlands is set for Thursday, December 7th.

MABA Short Course will be held on January 20, 2018, from 7:45am to 4:00pm at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. This event is great for anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper and will feature experts and master beekeepers with the latest information to help

get started in keeping bees. [Register now](#) before the class fills up. Great as a gift too.

Lake Country Beekeepers Association will hold their 6th Annual Beekeeping Workshop in Sparta, Georgia, on Saturday, January 27th, at Oconee Fall Line Technical School. Speakers include: Keith Fielder, Bruce Morgan and Dr. Brett Nolan. There will be workshops for beginners and advanced. Cost is \$40/ adult before January 20th, and \$50 after that. Family members only \$10 and children are FREE. Includes lunch. For more information contact, Mary Lacksen, mlacksen@gmail.com or 478.456.1049

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club held their annual holiday dinner and elections last month in lieu of a meeting. Everyone enjoyed socializing over the catered dinner, and there were no complaints with the pot luck dessert table! Elections were held, and the



golden hive tool has been passed to Andy Bailey. Hoyt Rogers (pictured to the left) was recognized for his many years of service to the club as treasurer.

Our next club meeting is January 25, 2018, at the Cumming Department of Recreation ([427 Pilgrim Mill Rd, Cumming](#)). Bob Binnie of Blue Ridge Honey Company will be our guest speaker. Anyone who has had a chance to meet

Bob in his store, or see him speak, will tell you he can discuss just about bee topic you bring forward. We welcome anyone interested in bees, beekeeping, or simply hearing Bob Binnie.

The full 2018 calendar of speakers, classes, and events will be published in the January newsletter. Bee school will be in February, with the hands on portion in April. Queen Rearing Class and Certified Exam are both in May, Disease & Disorder Class is in July. If interested being on the mailing list, please complete this form. tinyurl.com/ForsythClub2018

Enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends, and may 2018 bring you joy, health, and strong hives ready to split, happy to pollinate, with plenty to harvest.



Chattooga Beekeepers select new officers for 2018: Sophia Price vice president, Brad Mathis President and Denise Elliott secretary/treasurer



The Chattooga Beekeepers Association was chartered in 2012. Ten of the original members are still with the club. Recognized for their continued support and involvement to the club are L-R: *Sophia Price, president, Janette Cordle, Max Cordle, Denise Elliott, Secretary, Derick Forester, Phaedra Roberts, vice-president, Max Hollis, Mike Roberts, Carolyn Rolan, and Randy Rolan.*

Photo Credit: M & C Photography



Two Chattooga Beekeepers received special awards at our November meeting. Max Cordle, from Subligna, Georgia, was given a plaque for his Outstanding Service. Max is always one of the first to volunteer and has provided the observation

hive that has thrilled students in four counties for all six years the Chattooga Beekeepers have been in existence. His bees have educated thousands at the fair over the last few years. He is a marvelous beekeeper and mentor as well, helping at meetings and educational sessions.

Randy Rolen received the Appreciation Award, for the magnitude of his contributions to the development of the association, organization of events, helping with programs and speakers, mentoring, and being a go to person as a Master Beekeeper. Often working behind the scene, his hard work has not gone unnoticed. Randy resides in Ringold, with his wife Carolyn.

Photo Credit M & C Photography

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett's speaker for November was Harold Lanier from Lanier Bee Barn. He shared with us what we needed to do to prepare our bees for winter. Of course no discussion would be complete with reviewing treatments for Varroa! Harold was an excellent speaker and we'll make sure to include him in next year's speaker rotation. We also held election of officers in November and all positions are filled and planning for 2018 is underway.

Next month is our Holiday Party where we can relax and share our treats and tell Bee stories amongst our beekeeping friends. It will be held at the Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, on December 12th at 7:00pm.

At our recent meeting, we held election of officers for 2018. All positions are full and we are starting our planning for speakers and the upcoming December party. The officers elected are:

President: Dave Collins

Vice President: Robert Williams

Secretary: Francine Locke

Treasurer: Margaret Hogsed

Librarian: Lori Wert

Please congratulate these officers and give them your full support as we begin our planning for next year. Please also let us know if there are any speakers or topics you wish to hear at our monthly meetings.

We will also start planning our annual Bee School soon. If you are interested in teaching, donating door prizes, or just supporting this event, please let us know.

The club needs as much help as we can gather, so don't be shy to pitch in when you see a place where

you can help. (Trust me, you will not be turned down :).

We are all looking forward to taste the treats next month. Until then, we hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday.

The GBA website contains an ongoing **speaker list**. Here you can find names of people who like to speak to bee clubs.

To see the list, [click here](#). The list includes names, contact information and some of the topics that these speakers offer.



Your GBA newsletter editors wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

