



Spilling The Honey

JANUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all of our wonderful Georgia beekeepers! I hope everyone has a great bee year in 2018.

The winter solstice on December 21 marks not only the shortest day of the year, but the beginning of bee season. By late November/December, the number of bees in the hive is the smallest of the entire year. The old folks used to say that on December 21, the queen bee, in the dark box of the hive or deep inside her tree trunk, knows that going forward from the solstice, the days will begin to grow longer. Her response is to recognize that the small number of winter bees

must grow into a thriving, robust hive by spring. She is then stimulated to begin building up the hive numbers again.

Before we know it, February will arrive and by late February (maybe) but certainly in March, hives will be so large that they will be preparing to swarm. And all because the queen bee recognized the shortest day in the year without the benefit of seeing the sun.

Like the queen bee building up her forces, GBA is working to build up support for our **honey bee license plate**. Gail Dean, Tim Doherty, and their legislative committee are working hard to make contact with legislators and to help the process along. I accompanied Gail to visit a legislator and fellow beekeeper, Emory Donahoo, who will sponsor the honey bee license plate bill for us in the legislature. We are lucky to have him working with us. Once our license plate passes in the legislature, then we will work with the state senate to pass it there and send it on to the governor. When that happens, we will be contacting you and anyone in the state who would like to purchase a honey bee license plate! To add your name to a list of people who will be notified when the license plate is available, [click here](#).

The GBA Board has been working to build up our relationships with local clubs. Our directors on the board have been contacting all of the local club presidents to connect them with GBA and offer whatever we can by way of assistance to make your club function better. The now six directors and I had a good phone meeting to discuss their contacts with the clubs and to work together to make GBA better.

The **spring meeting** is shaping up quite well. We will meet in Griffin again for the spring and our conference will include a dinner on Friday night at the Griffin Kiwanis Club where Diana Sammataro will speak to us on the fascinating world of microbes and fungicides. The conference will then take place on Saturday all day with great speakers, interesting breakout sessions, and good vendors. Register for this great meeting [by clicking here](#).

Our **bylaws** require any changes to be affirmed by a vote of the membership. We will have a short, focused business meeting to vote on the newest revision of the bylaws. We have addressed the concerns brought up at the fall meeting. Please [click here](#) to read the annotated version of the bylaws on which we will be voting.

We hope all of you will join us for the spring conference. We have great speakers and exciting breakouts. There's lots to learn and enjoy.

Hope you and your bees are gathering energy for spring and all that it brings: both to your bee hives and to the GBA.

Bee well,
Linda T

The spring meeting will be on February 16 & 17 at the UGA Griffin campus in Griffin. Diana Sammataro will be one of our special guest speakers.

THE HONEY HOUSE AT BLUE RIDGE HONEY COMPANY – *by Dan Long*

Just north of Tallulah Gorge in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Bob Binnie has created a modern, efficient honey house for his business, the Blue Ridge Honey Company. The friendly staff welcomed me there for a visit and allowed me to have a peek at how they take the raw product from the field and ready it for us to enjoy in our homes.

The entire facility is setup and operated to be in compliance with government safety and sanitary standards. They are licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and inspected by the Commodities Inspection Division of the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture. They are also audited by a third party food safety and quality consultant.



The process begins in the company's bee yards that hold about 3000 active hives in the surrounding area up to an hour away. Supers are collected, palletized and trucked to the main building where they

are loaded into a warm room to keep the viscosity low for extraction. The next room is where most of the high tech equipment is housed. Everything is clean and food grade with most of the machinery in heavy duty stainless steel. The floors are coated in epoxy and have floor drains for washing down the equipment. The walls are also coated up to three feet high for washdown.

The first machine in the line is a chain uncapper. Frames are loaded onto the end where blades are used to remove caps. Frames are checked for low areas and then loaded to a belt driven holding tray to await their turn in the extractor. The uncapper is capable of processing about 80 supers per hour.



The next step is extraction. The holding tray has a chain driven conveyor that loads 60 frames into a horizontal radial extractor. Each batch is spun for about 5 minutes, depending on the honey, to remove as much as possible. When finished, the frames are automatically removed at the far end of the line where they are loaded back into supers and taken out of the processing room.

The honey that drains out of the extractor and uncapper runs by gravity feed into a holding tank where it is pumped through a heat exchanger to make sure it is a good temperature for the continuous separator. It can process about 3000 lbs of honey per hour.



With the honey and wax bits at just the right temperature, it is pumped into a Spin Float Honey Wax Separator. This uses centrifugal force to separate the majority of the wax and other bits from the honey. The honey flows out the bottom where it is pumped off to a holding tank and the wax is continuously scraped out with motorized blades. The wax is gathered and taken to a different room where it is melted and filtered. The honey is drained from the holding tanks into food grade barrels for temporary storage.



At the end of each processing run, the whole room gets a thorough cleaning and inspection to make sure everything is ready for the next run. There is a triple bay stainless sink for cleaning small parts and the big equipment is cleaned in place.

The sealed barrels of honey are held in a large warehouse until they are needed for bottling. The production is supplemented with barrels of honey purchased from several places in the United States to provide a greater variety of different distinct floral types like Tupelo and Orange Blossom. The barrels are carefully labeled with source and lot numbers.

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THE HONEY HOUSE (CONT'D)



About a day before bottling, a batch of up to 24 barrels is moved into a warming room where it is carefully brought up to 100 degrees. This is warm enough to lower its viscosity but cool enough to preserve all of the honey's natural goodness. It is pumped through a large pair of mesh strainers to get out any remaining bits of wax. This is much more desirable than the high temperature microfiltration that can take away a lot of what makes honey so good.

Next, the honey is pumped into the bottling room where large tanks hold hundreds of pounds of honey each. Here, cases of empty bottles of various sizes, caps and labels are brought in as needed for filling.

A semi-automatic filler pumps a predetermined volume of honey into each bottle and is topped up to the proper weight by hand before being capped. Next the bottle is loaded onto a small conveyor belt where it passes a photo eye which

triggers a label dispenser. The conveyor has a secondary belt that precisely spins the bottle to smoothly and evenly apply each label. Then, a lot code is printed on each bottle or jar before being offloaded to a rotating table where they are gathered and loaded into boxes. From there, they are staged in another room where they are pulled for the retail area out front, mail order sales and distribution by truck. They sell any size order from a single jar to several pallets at a time!



Honey Hot Chocolate recipe

— by Julia Mahood

Generally speaking, using honey as a sugar substitute adds depth to flavors, especially when paired with chocolate. Here's a favorite that I found online from the *SAVEUR* website:

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. honey
- 2 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
- Pinch kosher salt
- 1 cup milk
- Whipping cream (optional)
- Chocolate chips (optional)

Instructions:

Whisk honey, cocoa powder, and salt in a 1-qt. saucepan over medium heat; bring to a simmer and slowly whisk in milk. Cook, while stirring, until slightly thickened and beginning to bubble at edges. Pour into mug. Top with whipped cream and chocolate chips if desired. Enjoy!



Photo courtesy of Jenny Burrows.

IS IT HONEY? {PART 1} – by Bob Grant

I have received calls from several Georgia beekeepers expressing concern over fake or mislabeled honey. Two beekeepers were very persistent. Gilmer County Beekeeper Association member, William Thacker, expressed concern with false Sourwood “honey” being sold in local stores. At a recent Mountain Beekeepers’ Association (MBA) meeting, Steve Towe brought in a bottle of fake honey and challenged us to identify the difference. It was difficult to quickly identify what made it “fake” until we closely examined the front label and the list of ingredients on the back label.

This initial article covers fake and adulterated honey being marketed as pure honey. These “honey-like” products are sold in local chains and other retailers at very low prices.

Georgia consumers believe they are purchasing pure honey with its potential health benefits, when they buy a traditional honey bottle with the word honey in a prominent position on the label. In some instances, consumers are purchasing a mix of corn syrup and other sugar syrups with only a minimal amount of honey. The primary ingredients do not offer the health benefits of true honey and these high fructose products are simply adding more sugar to the average Georgians’ diet.

Before moving on, it is important to review Georgia’s existing honey packing regulations. The principle Georgia regulation addressing this issue is, in part, O.C.G.A. § 26-2-29, § 26-2-32 (2017). § 26-2-32, which states the following:

§ 26-2-32. Factors to be taken into account in determining whether labels or advertisements are misleading

If an article is alleged to be misbranded because the labeling is misleading or if an advertisement is alleged to be false because it is misleading, then, in determining whether the labeling or advertisement is misleading, there shall be taken into account, among other things, not only representations made or suggested by statements, words, designs, devices, sound, or any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the labeling or advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the light of such representations or material with respect to consequences which may result from the use of the article to which the labeling or advertisement relates under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling or advertisement thereof or under such conditions of use as are customary or usual.

In another section of this regulation, true honey must be labeled with the word “Honey” as the most prominent, i.e., largest word in bold type on the front label. The label must also contain the honey producer/packer’s contact information and net weight in ounces and grams.

With the above in mind, let’s look at two examples of fake honey from Steve Towe. Exhibit 1 is the traditional “Honey Bear” container – the first deceptive marketing practice.

Exhibit 1 – Honey Bear bottle with the word Honey prominent



What looks like pure honey (since the word Honey is the most prominent word on the label) becomes the second deceptive practice. What follows is the word “Blend” in smaller white lettering on a light-colored background, which reduces the contrast and possibility

that consumers will see it – third deceptive practice. Finally, in the smallest and most difficult to read type are the words “A blend of corn syrup, sugar syrup and honey.” Hurried consumers quickly looking at the label could assume it is pure honey unless they stop to read the fine print on the front and the ingredients on the back. If they inspect the back label, they will see the list of ingredients with honey last. As one of my assistant beekeepers stated, “The big red flag” is the list of ingredients on the back label! Pure honey has only one ingredient – honey. But who stops to read the back label?

The second bottle is accurately labeled “Honey Flavored Syrup,” with the word “Syrup” in large red print on a black background. My concern with Exhibit 2 is the picture of a bear sitting with a pot of golden syrup in a “Honey Bear” container. As we all know, the Honey Bear bottle is the most common honey container. Some consumers may not be able to read English and still others, e.g. parents in a hurry with small children may simply grab the bottle and go. Many may view honey as a syrup as well. Both examples can be deceptive to consumers who are quickly trying to complete their shopping list.

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IS IT HONEY? – (CONT'D)

Exhibit 2 – Honey Bear with the word Syrup as prominent



Many feel it is not a health issue so why pursue it and spend vital resources enforcing the laws? There are at least two reasons: it is misleading to Georgia consumers and it contributes to the long-term effect these products have on one of America's principle illnesses – Diabetes. In the USA alone

Diabetes affects 25.8 million people or 8.3% of the population! I'm one of them. These sugar concoctions are not helping this epidemic. True – they are not the only cause but they are part of the equation. The cost of Diabetes is escalating, particularly in older Americans and this has a profound economic impact on healthcare.

Long term healthcare aside, why should beekeepers be concerned? Beekeepers tell me that people taste their

honey and tell them it's not honey! Unless the consumer gets better information, they will likely remain misinformed.

CALL TO ACTION: Before marching down the legislative path, we need to understand the magnitude of the issue in Georgia.

- First, I would ask fellow beekeepers to look for adulterated honey and take pictures, along with where it is being sold and the date. Please forward your pictures and information to me so that we can map and begin to understand the magnitude of this problem. Email me at bobg.rivercg@gmail.com.
- Second, I need your opinions on what future actions should be taken to protect the consumer and beekeeper/honey packer.

Thank you, in advance, for your help.

Stay turned for part two.

¹CDC, National Diabetes Factsheet, 2011

Illuminating the Holidays with bee art



Photo: Emily Heath.



Photo: Sophia Price.



Photo: Sophia Price.



Photo: Sophia Price.



Photo: Sophia Price.



Photo: Holly Bayendor McConnell.



Photo: (above right) Steve Altom. Warre hive. Polk County.

Photo: (above) Holly Bayendor. Woodstock, Cherokee County.



Photo: (above) Andy Marcus of Dahlonega. Top Bars in the snow.

Photo: (left) Steve Altom. Hives in the snow. Polk County.

It snowed!!



Photos: (above and left) Marc Wagner of Crawford county. This white pollen may be wild mustard.

HANDS-ON MENTORING AFTER THE CLASSES

– by Buddy May

[Note: Original article was printed in *Bee Culture*, November 2017 Reprinted here with permission of the author and of the editor of *Bee Culture*]

Dedicated mentoring of the new and inexperienced beekeeper is perhaps the single most important aspect of successful management in beekeeping.



I and others are witnessing, in some cases, approximately 70% loss of beekeepers in first two (2) years. Additionally, we are seeing higher than normal loss of colonies during a season (South Carolina loss 42% of colonies in 2015). I attribute such losses to the lack of experience and practical knowledge by new and inexperienced beekeepers.

Acknowledging that there are exceptions, in the South, and I presume over much of the North as well, our beginner beekeepers are given an eight-week course in “Beginner Beekeeping”, then a full day (if they are lucky) of practical experience followed by a practical exam. After that, there is very little formal instruction to educate the new beekeeper. They are then left to deal with the day to day problems without additional training. This is the role where mentors can make a difference.

CURRENT APPROACHES TO THE MENTOR/MENTEE PROCESS

Let’s pause for a moment and discuss the many ways new beekeepers are being dealt with in actuality today. The majority of beekeeping associations and beginning beekeeping courses today do not have a regimented and formal Mentor/Mentee program. Yes, there is quite a bit of lip service but when you get right down to it, most programs are very informal. Some of the issues may be derived from the fact that mentors are not trained in the “preferred method” of managing a colony of honey bees. All of us have heard, “speak to 10 beekeepers and you will get 10 different answers”. True, there are many good ways to reach a

particular beekeeping objective, but Mentors need to be trained in a “preferred method” (explanation forthcoming) when dealing with a beginner beekeeper.

In most instances, the association just announces that a list of mentors has agreed to serve and it is left up to the mentee to make the contact. Little or no control is maintained with regards to performance of either mentor or mentee. Ideally a mentee should be placed with a mentor. Pairing of Mentee to Mentor is best performed at the beginning of a new class of beekeepers. This way the mentors and mentees become accustomed to each other.

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HANDS-ON MENTORING – (CONT'D)

A SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR A MENTOR/MENTOREE PROGRAM

Assuming your association has agreed upon the need for a Mentor/Mentee program, the next step is to formulate guidelines. The good first step is for the mentors to select a mentor coordinator from among themselves, who is charged with coordinating the efforts of the individual Mentors. This group of individuals will compile a list of tasks or activities that new (1st to 3rd year) beekeepers should perform in the bee yard and will agree to debate and discuss the most preferred method for the performing each activity. A list of these activities starting with equipment basics on upward to more complicated management is illustrated in **Appendix A** below.

With respect to the “preferred method”, mentioned previously, it has been my observation that new beekeepers become dis-oriented and confused when beekeepers start talking and give the new beekeeper five (5) ways of doing a particular task in the bee yard. I suggest we teach the new beekeeper one way, thus the “preferred method”, until he or she is completely familiar with what is trying to be achieved and how to achieve the desired result. Yes, there are many ways to do a task, but once the beekeeper is familiar with one method, they can certainly investigate other methods to obtain the desired results.

Let's take an in-depth review of one method of Mentor/Mentee training for consideration and adoption. The preferred method is a tool to teach beginners, one (simplest, easiest, least expensive) way to accomplish a goal, say, removing honey. Most acknowledge that these are four good ways to remove honey filled supers. For beginners, the shake and brush is low-tech, easy, inexpensive and works under all circumstances. The repellent has some qualifiers, the blower is expensive, the bee escape works if conditions are right.

Or another example, feeding – the new beekeeper can spend a lot of money for a bee feeder, but feeding right on top of brood works in all circumstances – the feeder should be easy, inexpensive and accessible (either feed over the inner cover hole or over frames – if inner cover is used, the beekeeper doesn't need to be exposed to the bees.)

It is recommended that “Satellite Apiaries” be chosen to accommodate the mentees, geographically. The use of satellite apiaries is a radical departure from the existing methods of Mentor/Mentee activity, where the mentor visits the mentee. The number and location of satellite apiaries is determined by the number of new beekeepers in the class as well as the location of mentors geographically. The Mentee is assigned to a satellite apiary which is geographically suited to each Mentee and is organized to accommodate the activities that will be exhibited. In most cases, it will be the apiary of one of the mentors or it could be a community apiary. The size of the class will determine the number of satellite apiaries, but for simplicity, let's choose four (4) satellite apiaries. Now, these apiaries will be supported by three or four mentors available to assist the mentees (a minimum of one mentor will be available for each session of mentoring).

A certain day of the week and hour of the day will be chosen as the mentoring time. (I personally mentor to, on the average, about six mentees each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am till noon. Some mentees have been attending for up to three years and I have witnessed their progress from new beekeeper to Certified to Journeyman and preparing for their Master certification. Most of these individuals are now mentors and help mentor to the mentees!) Each session, with dates, times and activities is to be reviewed and is emailed to each satellite apiary attendee. It is recommended that each Satellite apiary have as minimum two classes monthly for two hours each.

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APPENDIX A

Equipment – basic hive

- Personal protective
- Tools
- Ancillary
- Using used equipment – pros and cons
- Making your own-equipment pitfalls and precautions

Apiary

- Urban – always neighbors first
- Suburban
- Siting within apiary
- How many colonies?

Starting beekeepers

- Easy methods for beginners
- Packages and Nucs

- Swarm captures (incl., bait hives)

More experienced beekeepers

- Splits/divides/making nucs
 - Cutouts
- ### **Biology**
- essence of bee as superorganisms
 - Bee family (with female caste worker/queen & drone and duties)
 - Brood stages (including rearing)
 - Communication and dance language
 - Nest basics (natural and man-made)

Inspection

- Starting outside
- Getting inside
- Inspection of brood frame

- Looking into supers – decisions to add more
- Getting practice
- Seasonal differences (what to expect when)
- Handling the bigger colony after the first month, 2nd month

Management

- Seasonal spring, summer, fall, and winter
- Swarming
- Advanced managements

Maladies

- ID of the diseases
- Control of the those needing (how to determine, how to control)

HANDS-ON MENTORING

– (CONT'D)

ROLE OF THE MENTEE

The primary reason for the Mentor/Mentee association is to further the practical experience of the mentee. The mentee should have completed his or her certified classes and passed a certified written exam. Upon completion, the mentee should enroll in the nearest Satellite apiary class for hands on practical experience which is the objective of each session.

It is noted at this time that the mentor/mentee association is primarily designed to give the mentee the practical knowledge which comes only from hands-on experience. The class room sessions give support to the understanding of the bee biology and history, but cannot give the hands-on experience necessary for understanding colony activity.

The mentee should consult their texts for refresher information prior to each session in the apiary and be prepared to ask any questions which are not clear from the text material.

The mentee should be punctual for all meetings, bring the necessary equipment to the apiary, and expect to sign a hold harmless agreement upon arriving for the first visit.



ROLE OF THE MENTOR

Meet with other mentors who are certified Masters and Journeyman beekeepers and agree to defining the most preferred method of each activity presented to the mentee during apiary activity.

Agree to the location of each satellite apiary (recommend four) and select the mentors for each location.

Plan the beginning of satellite apiaries activities after bee classes are complete. The first might be just as package bees/nucs are available to be installed. In the South, bee classes are held in Dec., Jan., Feb., and Mar. with package bees arriving in latter part of March and early part of April.

Activities should be videoed and discussed at mentor meetings, which should be on a quarterly basis, to discuss progress and possible modifications to the any preferred method or performing an activity.

Some associations may want to charge a fee to the mentee for the satellite apiary activities; however, it is my belief that there should not be a monetary charge. The mentors can use their action as a credit for their next certification to Master or to a Master Craftsman level of certification.

I would like to express gratitude to Dr. Dewey Caron for his comments during my preparation of this paper, as well as to all the mentees of the last three years, some of which are now mentors.

CLUB NEWS

West Georgia Beekeepers Association meeting will be held on January 22nd with guest speaker Brian Drebber who will teach about the Slovenian AZ Hives.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's January 10th speaker will be Tommy Mealer on queen rearing. The meeting will be held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens from 7 pm to 9 pm.



MABA held its first holiday get-together in many years on Dec. 7th. Pictured at left are: Holly Bayendor (Past President), Julia Mahood, President, and Gail Dean, Vice President.)

MABA's classroom **Short Course** will be held on January 20th at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in

Buckhead. This classroom day is followed by several hands-on hive inspections at apiaries around the city. For more info and to register visit: https://memberplanet.com/s/mababc/retreatregistration_44

The **Lake Country Beekeepers Association** is hosting their 6th **Annual Beekeepers Workshop** on Saturday, January 27th at Oconee Fall Line Technical College, GA Hwy 22/15 North in Sparta, GA. Come learn about the world of beekeeping from local beekeeping experts, Keith Fielder (UGA Extension Agent) and Bruce Morgan (Morgan Apiaries). Plus Dr. Brett Nolan, a UGA trained entomologist and beekeeper will help cover topics including: honey bee biology, honey bee nutrition, caring for the queen, colony health and behavior, host-parasite relationships in the hive, and hive inspection. Pre-registration is \$40.00 by January 20th or \$50.00 at the door. Registration includes: annual club membership, beekeeping book, magazines and handouts, and lunch. The workshop is from 9:00 am till 5:00 pm. For more information, contact Mary Lacksen at 478.456.1049 or mlacksen@gmail.com.

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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)



Donnie Ragan from the **Lake Country Beekeepers Association** and his son, Dwayne Ragan from the **Effingham County Beekeepers Association** captured first and second place in the honey tasting contest at the December 14th **Effingham County Beekeepers Association** event.

Gwinnett County Beekeepers's Bee School will be held on March 24 at their regular meeting spot of Hebron Baptist Church.

Forsyth Beekeepers Club has new officers for 2018. Andy Bailey is the new President, baileysbees@gmail.com and Mike Conner is VP mike.a.conner@gmail.com.

Forsyth's Bee School classroom session will be held on February 24 and the hiveside session will be on April 21 (28th rain Date). To sign up and get more info, visit:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cod4ba5a-82fa1f49-beeschool3>

Forsyth also offers a "Learn how to graft queens" workshop on May 19, led by Bill Dunn. There's limited space for grafting, so sign up soon at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cod4ba5a82fa1f49-queen3>

The **Coweta Beekeepers Association** will offer a one day Introduction to Beekeeping course on January 27, 2018. The class will be held at the Coweta County Extension Office, 255 Pine Road, Newnan, Georgia. 30263.

Registration and check-in starts at 8:00 am. Instruction starts at 8:30 am and concludes by 4:00 pm.

Early registration is \$50 with additional family members \$10 each. The fee includes 2018 Coweta Beekeepers Association membership, the book First Lessons in Beekeeping, snacks, lunch, instruction and handouts.

You can find more information and registration on our website www.cowetabeekeepers.org

The **Tri State Beekeepers Association** will meet January 16 at the UGA AG center in Trenton GA. Randy Rolan will be speaking on 10 mistakes new Beekeepers make.

The **Lake Hartwell Beekeeper Association** is having a beginning beekeeping "Short Course" on Saturday, February 24 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Lavonia Georgia. Cost is \$50 per person or \$75 for a couple. Included in registration is 8 classes, lunch, door prizes, 2018 membership in LHBA and hive inspections. Contact lakehartwellbeeclub@gmail.com to register.

The **Tara Beekeepers Association** will Kickoff 2018 with a thoughtful & introspective presentation by

Dr. Keith Delaplane, MBE, Professor, Walter B. Hill Fellow & Honey Bee Program Director, Univ. of Georgia

Mon., Jan. 15th, 7pm at the Georgia Power Building, 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 celebrated the holidays together at our annual Christmas Dinner. We began by recognizing and thanking the many people who made our meetings and gatherings fun and productive throughout the year. We elected our officers and directors for 2018, adding Richard Stephens as Secretary and Stephen Boalch as a Director.



We also presented our **Beekeeper of the Year Award** to two very dedicated club members who have demonstrated their great love for beekeeping and commitment to helping others learn more about the craft. This year's recipients of the award were **Jerry Haygood**

and **David Brookshire**. We wrapped up the event with Gary Cooke, our Master of Ceremony (and club comedian), overseeing the shenanigans of our holiday gift swap (or swipe...for those who had to relinquish some really great gifts!). All in all, we had a really nice time together and were so pleased to surprise and honor Jerry and David. We look forward to a busy 2018 in the bee yard and hope to cross paths with many of our fellow beekeepers across the state. Please feel free to drop in on any of our meetings.

Letter from our editor...

If this newsletter is on time this month, thank Holly, Gina and Julia. If this newsletter is late, I assume all the blame.

After the submission deadline for this issue and before I had done any of my part of making this newsletter possible, I dropped a bombshell on the above named ladies. What went from a failed stress test and partially successful heart Cath, became a full blown coronary artery bypass surgery. It all happened so fast, there was no time to make preparations. I am recovering at home and doing well.

I wanted you to know who the important people are who stepped up when needed most and produced this newsletter. I offer my most sincere thank you and deepest appreciation to Holly, Gina and Julia. Thank you, from the bottom of my newly repaired heart.

– Rick Moore



**SPRING
MEETING
2018**

FEBRUARY 16 & 17

UGA GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Featuring the

SPRING

ARTISAN

SHOW

AND THE

WEBSITE AD

AUCTION

EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*

SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Diana Sammataro, PhD

Diana Sammataro, co-author of the *Beekeeper's Handbook* (4th ed. 2011), began keeping bees in 1972 in Connecticut, setting up a colony in her maternal grandfather's old bee hive equipment. From then on, she decided that her B.S. in landscape architecture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, would not be a career, but that honey bees would. In 1978 she joined Peace Corps and taught beekeeping in the Philippines for 3 years. On returning, she worked at the USDA Bee Lab in Madison, WI under Dr. Eric Erickson, studying the effects of plant breeding and flower attraction of bees in sunflower lines. In 1991 she was accepted at the Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Lab at Ohio State University to study for a Ph.D. researching tracheal mites. In 1995, she worked as a post-doctoral assistant at Ohio State University with Dr. James Tew and in 1998 at the Penn State University bee lab, with Maryann Frazier. Early in 2002, she joined the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Center in Tucson AZ.



Adam Finkelstein

Adam Finkelstein owns and operates VP Queen Bees producing artificially inseminated breeder queens used as breeding stock by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers throughout the USA and abroad. VP Queen Bees collaborates with the USDA at Baton Rouge and other migratory outfits to select for mite resistance and productivity. All VP Queen Bees colonies are treatment free and have been for 19 years. Working with others (groups and individuals) to design and plan bee breeding programs is Adam's greatest joy and interest. VP Queen Bees offers a yearly class on honey bee insemination.



Dr. Keith S. Delaplane, MBE

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 16

5:00-6:15 PM Board Meeting, Stuckey Auditorium

6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, Kiwanis Club

7:00 PM Dinner (Kiwanis Club) & lecture by Diana

Sammataro: *The fascinating world of microbes and fungicides*

Saturday, February 17

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 Stuckey Building classroom (follow signage)

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

8:45-9:30 Diana Sammataro: *What are mites?*

9:30-10:15 Adam Finkelstein: *Pointers for success in a local bee breeding program*

10:15-10:45 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

10:45-11:30 Morning Breakout Sessions A

11:40-12:30 Business Meeting

12:30-1:15 **LUNCH**

1:00 Announce Artisan show awards

1:15-2:00 Keith Delaplane

2:00-2:45 Adam Finkelstein: *Breeding bees for mite resistance and performance*

2:45-3:15 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

3:15-4:00 Afternoon Breakout Sessions B

4:00-4:30 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey*

4:30 **Website Auction** in Stuckey Auditorium

4:45-5:30 Diana Sammataro: *Honey plants*

5:30 Raffle drawings, 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



Bobby Chaisson began beekeeping over ten years ago with two hives. His beekeeping adventure quickly grew, selling honey and doing bee removals. In 2015 Bobby went to work full time with Georgia Bee Removal. He performs hundreds of removals a year and is one of Georgia's leading experts for bee removals. Bobby is the president of Tri-County Beekeepers Association is active in MABA and GBA.



Reese Haren is a hobbyist beekeeper in his third year, although in the mid 70s he helped his dad out with his bees. He is a Certified Beekeeper through the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute and is a member of the Gwinnett and Forsyth clubs as well as GBA.



Cindy Hodges is a native Atlantan and Urban beekeeper with 50+ colonies in North Georgia including roof top hives in downtown Atlanta. She is a Georgia Master Craftsman Beekeeper, EAS Master Beekeeper, and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. In 2012 Cindy was awarded the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. She is a past President Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association and founded the MABA Junior Beekeeper Program.



Dan Long owns and operates a mail order nursery in Athens, GA. He is a Journeyman Beekeeper and has always had a strong interest in observation hives. He has worked with others and built his own for public and personal use.



Jenia Molotkova and Haley Martin are undergraduate biology majors at Georgia Tech. Both are members of the BeeSNAP VIP team where they conducted this work under the guidance of Jennifer Leavey (Director of the Urban Honey Bee Project), as well as Jason Riedy (from the School of Computational Science and Engineering).



Deja Perkins is a senior at Tuskegee University majoring in environmental science, natural resources, and plant sciences. She completed her study in Dr. Terry Snell's lab at Georgia Tech in the summer of 2017 while participating in the USDA-funded Bee-INSPIRED undergraduate research program directed by Jennifer Leavey of the Urban Honeybee Project.



Lynn Williams from Page, South Carolina is a beekeeper and inventor with 40 plus years at Industrial Automation Controls & Systems.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each breakout session is held in the morning and repeats in the afternoon.

Jenia Molotkova and Haley Martin: *Where Do Bees Find Food In The City?* - Stuckey Auditorium

This Georgia Tech team mapped where dozens of bee-friendly tree species are located in Atlanta and compared the bloom times reported in scientific literature with visual verification. Our optimal forage maps can help urban beekeepers decide when and where to place their bees, and can help model how climate change affects the nectar flow.

Deja Perkins: *The Effect of Oxalic Acid on Honey Bee Larvae* SLC room 105

A Tuskegee University study shows that oxalic acid is toxic to honey bee larvae at doses 10X lower than what is recommended for treating adult bees. Our work suggests that using oxalic acid in hives with uncapped brood will likely have a significant negative impact on colony health.

Dan Long: *Observation Hives- See Your Bees Like Never Before!*

SLC room 116

Learn the ins and outs of buying or building your own observation hive, installing it and maintaining it. The observation hives provide an unparalleled opportunity to observe the seasonal and daily activity of honey bees without disturbing the colony. Whether it's in a public location or your own living room, it will be both fun and educational.

Cindy Hodges: *The Georgia Propolis Project* SLC room 115

An introduction to propolis, its collection and uses by bees and people. Cindy will discuss her recent research to encourage propolis collection by the bees.

Bobby Chaisson: *The Ups and Downs of Bee Removals* SLC room 104

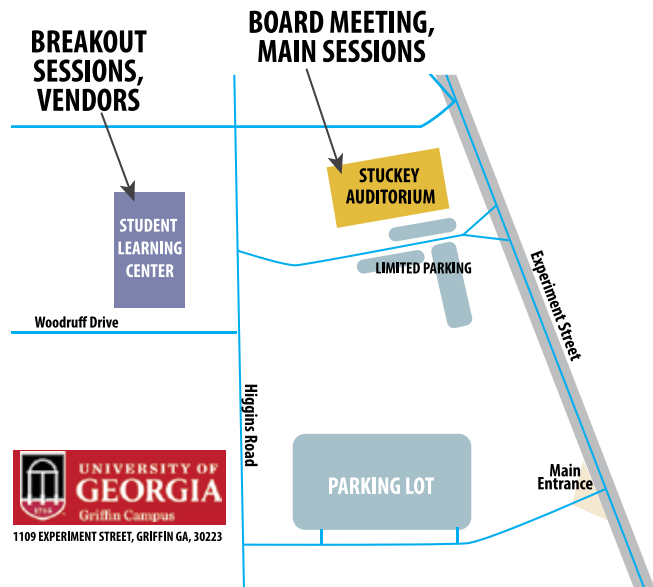
Explore the techniques and expenses involved in the safe removal of bees. With many years of bee removal experience to draw from, Bobby will show you what you should expect and some things you may not have thought about before you jump into removing bees from structures.

Reese Haren: *Two Seasons with the Flow Hive* SLC room 216

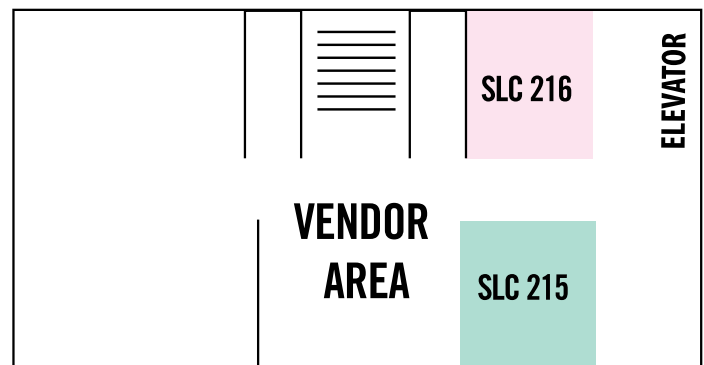
Reese will present an overview of his two seasons using flow hive equipment. On display he will have a "factory cedar super" and a ten frame deep he modified to hold flow hive frames, along with the equipment needed to harvest at the hive. Videos of bee activity and harvest are in the presentation.

Lynn Williams: *Science vs. Varroa Mites* SLC Room 215

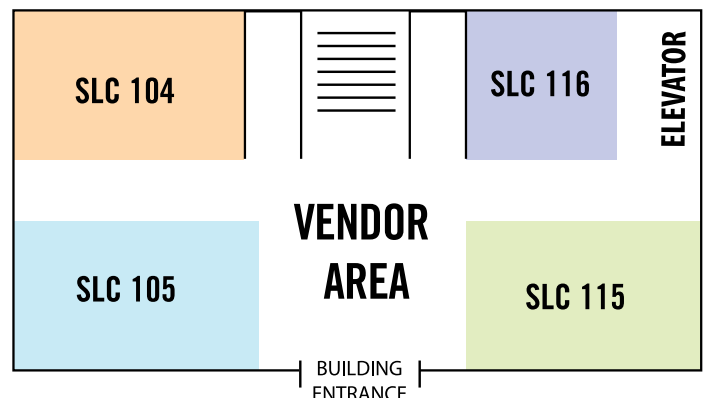
European studies in 2002 showed that temperature coupled with time kills varroa mites in the hive and capped brood cells. This results in healthier bees, a larger colony, increased honey production, and less stress on the colony.



CAMPUS MAP



STUDENT LEARNING CENTER SECOND FLOOR



STUDENT LEARNING CENTER FIRST FLOOR



Spilling The Honey

FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our conference is in just a couple of weeks and we are so excited about the program. I'd love for you to meet our speakers.

Dr. Diana Sammataro has been keeping bees since 1972. Her book, *The Beekeepers Handbook* with a foreword by her good friend, Dr. Dewey Caron, (who was our keynote speaker several years ago) is in its fourth edition. We are so lucky that Dr. Sammataro will be speaking to us at a catered dinner on Friday night where she will talk about mites and fungicides. Then on Saturday at the actual conference, she will speak in the morning on "What are Mites?" and in the afternoon on honey plants.

Adam Finkelstein owns and operates VP Queen Bees, producing artificially inseminated breeder queens used as breeding stock by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers throughout the USA and abroad. VP Queen Bees collaborates with the USDA at Baton Rouge and other migratory outfits to select for mite resistance and productivity. All VP Queen Bees colonies are treatment free and have been for 19 years. He and his bees were written about in *The Washington Post* in 2011. [Click here for the article.](#) He will be speaking on Saturday morning about local queen breeding and in the afternoon, he will be talking about developing mite resistant bees.

Dr. Keith Delaplane is the Director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Throughout his 27 years at UGA, he has conducted numerous research projects, written countless articles, and supervised numbers of graduate students. He is author and editor of several books. Dr. Delaplane is also a much sought after speaker on an array of honey bee topics. His speaking style is so engaging that I enjoy listening to him, no matter what the subject. He will be talking to us in the early afternoon on Saturday.

In addition to these three headliners, we have really great Georgia beekeepers offering breakouts on all kinds of topics. Jane Quattlebaum will talk about how to get good speakers for your bee club. Bobby Chaisson will talk to us about bee removals and Cindy Hodges will speak on her propolis project. Reese Haren will introduce us to his experience with the flow hive and Dan Long will talk about observation hives. We have some research results from GA Tech students about urban foraging. A Tuskegee grad student will talk to us about the effect of oxalic acid on bee larvae and Lynn Williams will introduce us to heat and the varroa mite.

The program is outstanding and the fellowship with your beekeeping friends will be invaluable! If you haven't signed up yet, [click here and register](#) so you can be a part of all of this! **Registration fees are \$45 now for members** but will go up to \$65 for everyone after February 10.

Register now!

Bee well and see you in Griffin,
Linda T



THE SWEET TASTE OF PROGRESS



— by *Kathleen Bourn*
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

You never know how much you know until you share what you know. I had the pleasure of sharing what little I know about beekeeping with eager, able and energized people in Nicaragua.



Cyndi Ball (Lazy B Farm, Ladies Homestead Gathering) invited Bill Owens (Georgia Bee Removal) and me to go with her on a beekeeping teaching trip organized by **Sweet Progress**. <https://sweetprogress.com/>

Sweet Progress is a collaboration of teachers and students from various NGO's (non-government organizations) and universities working with residents of Tipitapa, a small town on the outskirts of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. The main organizer is Vincent Cosgrove with help from Chepito Barnett.

Above: Kathy Bourn, Cyndi Ball and Josolyn (of the Sweet Progress program) are suite up. Right: Cyndi makes soap. Below: a program hive in Nicaragua.

Sweet Progress works like the hub of a wheel with several spokes all centered around honey bees. Beekeepers travel to Nicaragua to teach locals how to care for and profit from honey bees. This wheel provides work for:

- Seamstresses Making Bee Suits
- People Making and Selling Products from the Hive
- Woodworkers Making Beekeeping Supplies
- Farmers Using and Providing Pollination Services
- People Working a Honey House and Wax Mill for Other Beekeepers
- People Providing the Service of Collecting Bee Swarms and Cut-Outs

Cyndi provided guidance on making products from the hive. Her group produced soap, lip balm, lotion and salves. All items that can be both personally beneficial and economically profitable. The goal is to use local medicinal plants and market the products that way. Hector Gomez grows the plants at the learning facility and Karen Meza organizes the product making group.

Bill demonstrated how to remove bees from a building using a bee vacuum built by Jonathan Gomez, the Sweet Progress carpenter. The group removed a colony from a farm building and took out enough honey from that hive to equal the monetary value of a month's wages for that farmer. There were also several colonies in and around the buildings of the headquarters for ANF (American Nicaraguan Foundation). <http://anfnicaragua.org/>. Bill made suggestions on how the group could collect those bees.

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THE SWEET TASTE OF PROGRESS (CONT'D)



Clockwise from top: Sweet Progress has a hive inspection, healthy brood pattern, Kathy and Bill Owens carry a cut out hive/vac. Cyndi with Sweet Progress participants.

I taught how to build and use top bar hives. Jonathan built a Kenyan Top Bar from plans I sent, and we populated the hive with the bees from Bill's cut out. The inexpensive top bar hive is a good fit for these resourceful people. We named the hive "Josolyn" for the enthusiastic young beekeeper who stepped up and helped at every turn.

We, along with another U.S. beekeeper, Doug Johnson, traveled to different bee yards that are worked by rural "communities". The hive inspections helped the owners of the hives along with the students wanting hands on experience with the bees. The bees are africanized yet most of the hives we opened were better behaved than a lot of our own hives.

The students are both young and old but all eager to make the most out of the knowledge we were fortunate enough to share. Best of all, we all shared with new beekeeper friends.



Below: Jonathan focuses on hive building. Right: Kathy teaches top bar.



IS IT HONEY? {PART 2} – by Bob Grant

In “Is It Honey? - Part 1”, appearing in the January 2018 issue of “*Spilling the Honey*” we looked at fake honey products and their impact on Georgia’s 9.7 Million consumers and beekeepers. These articles are driven by GBA beekeepers who are concerned with fake and altered honey products. This installment focuses on North Carolina’s efforts to protect its citizens and beekeepers from fake and altered honey.

In the previous article we covered Georgia’s laws regarding honey packaging and labeling. The law is very specific and covers a lot of situations but not all. North Carolina’s (NC) stricter rules and enforcement of honey production/bottling are moving the needle closer to addressing the growing problem of altered or fake honey. It is important to mention here, that there are Federal laws (32 and Fed. Reg. 7565 (May 24, 1967) and 50 and Fed. Reg. 15861 (April 23, 1985), respectively that regulate honey types.

The NC movement to distinguish between pure honey and adulterated/fake honey began with the NC State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA) at their 2010 summer meeting at China Lake, NC. The members clearly defined what honey is and is not. The proposed guidelines from this seminal meeting created a clear distinction between honey and the adulterated look-a-like products. That distinction shows up in the labeling. Only true honey can be labeled as “HONEY.” Any foreign additives, not normally found in honey, such as flavor enhancers (e.g. Blueberry) and thinners, like corn syrup, must be labeled either “Blueberry Flavored Honey Syrup” or “Honey Flavored Corn Syrup.” In the altered case, honey cannot be the final noun in the title. This labeling requirement supposedly eliminates any buyer confusion between the products. The state of NC continues to actively regulate honey bottling and labeling through enforcement at the retail level. Unfortunately one altered NC honey is now found in Georgia stores, which is labeled “Pure Honey Sourwood.” Technically, this could be considered properly labeled as the last word is Sourwood. Enter the law of unintended consequences and one company can’t sell their altered honey in NC, so it markets it in Georgia. This situation may be happening elsewhere in Georgia with other out of state producers/bottlers.

Further, the NCSBA issues a “Certified Honey Producer” Certificate which is dated with both the start and finish year. See Exhibit 1 below.

Exhibit 1 – NCSBA Honey Producers License

The following statement was taken from the “Carolina Farm Stewardship Association: Growing Your Local Food Business in North Carolina, A guide to Laws and Regulations”, Sept. 2012 prepared and published by the NC Department of Agriculture.

The North Carolina Beekeepers’ Association has proposed a honey standard to prevent abuses in production, labeling, and marketing, and to promote product consistency. The NCDA&CS recently adopted the standard...



In Georgia, it is difficult and expensive for the state to identify where and when these labeling infractions occur. What is needed is enforcement by Georgia agencies who would confiscate the products and issue citations. There is also a need for escalating fines for repetitive infractions. Georgia law provides for fines, but lacks the formal escalating fines provision. This effort requires the state to spend its limited resources to enforce the basic laws already in place.

The following actions would help address many of the current problems:

- Enhance the existing honey laws which mirror those of North Carolina, who require licensing for honey producers (as with NC, the GA Beekeeper Association could issue the licenses, not the state);
- Modify labeling rules to address the dishonest approach of using existing rules to confuse or mislead consumers, especially for out of state suppliers;
- Educate the consumer on product labeling and the creation of a “Hotline” for reporting these infractions;

(continued on next page)

IS IT HONEY? {PART 2} – (CONT'D)

- Enforce the laws, with the public's help, to identify fraudulent behavior. For example, beekeepers could support spot checks normally done by enforcement professionals;
- Provide a retailer notification process of companies not in compliance with Georgia's honey regulations;
- Use of state, county, and local enforcement agencies to confiscate and issue citations for infractions identified; and
- Use of progressive fines to deal with those continuing to defraud the public.

This is no small undertaking, but at its core the practice of adulterating honey and mislabeling are defrauding Georgia consumers, potentially aggravating health conditions and hurting legitimate honey businesses. This situation is happening across Georgia from any number of out

of state businesses. Remember, for those of us who sell honey, we need to earn a fair return for investment of time and money to support sustainable beekeeping.

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service – research in 2011 showed the average per capita honey consumption at 1.3 pounds per person annually. When combined with the 9.7 million GA consumers our potential honey market is 12.6 million pounds. That's a significant market to protect!

CALL TO ACTION: We would like to hear your ideas for refining the labeling laws and enforcement activities. Also continue sending me your finds of mislabeled or altered honey. Further, testing of suspect honey needs to be done, before any fines are imposed.

Email Bob Grant at bobg.rivercg@gmail.com.

About the author:

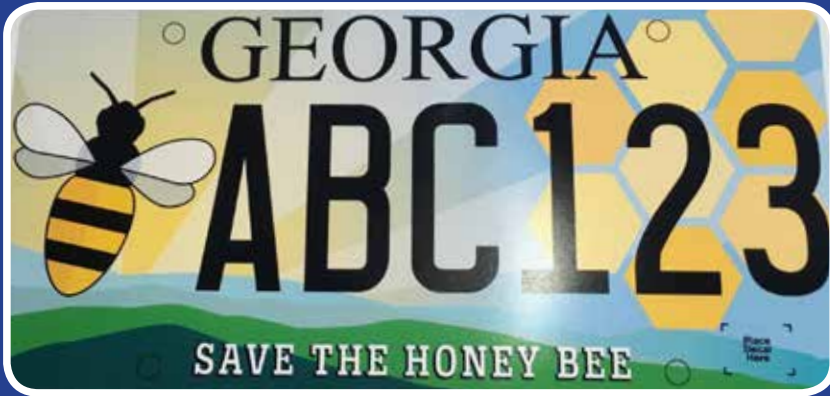
Bob Grant is the owner of two enterprises, the River Consulting Group, Inc. and Turning Creek Artisans, LLC. The former is a culmination of 45 years consulting to utility and energy companies – helping them improve their business performance while identifying opportunities for merging technologies.

In 2006, Bob started Turning Creek Artisans to sell his wood turned products. He is a recognized instructor with his turnings in private collections across the US. Concurrently he needed to pollinate his “ancient” apple and blueberry orchard to improve its fruit production. After reading up on beekeeping, he setup two hives to carry out his pollination plan. Within six months both hives died – not what he expected! The next step was to attend The Young Harris College and University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute's Master Beekeeper Program where he earned his Certified Beekeeper certificate in 2008. In 2017 he received his Journeyman certification. He is also a Honey Steward. All while working at a full-time Job and 90 percent travel.

TCA is a micro-honey producer with forty hives, selling honey in local of high-end shops, hotels, restaurants, two farmers markets and regional shows. Bob's strategy is simple: keep it small and focused on delivering all natural, high quality honey. To that end, TCA is a member of Certified Naturally Grown and Appalachian Grown (ASAP).

Bob is an outspoken advocate for honey bees. He has done honey bee presentations for the Rabun County Library Lunch program, Rabun County Rotary Club, The University of Georgia's Continuing Education Program, Mount Ivy Garden Club, The Lake Rabun University Program, The Headwaters Master Gardeners Club, the Sustainable Mountain Living Community, The Mountain Beekeepers Association (MBA), and The Beekeepers of Gilmer County. He writes articles for *Spilling the Honey* and the MBA newsletters. He also serves on the GBA's legislative committee and is a Vice president for MBA while managing the website and social media efforts.

Bob continues to experiment with new technology and observe bee activities to improve honey bee's lives, particularly as it pertains to the Georgia mountain region. Bob is married to Jan, his wife of 42 years who is a true honey connoisseur from Athens Georgia where she grew up as the daughter of an Athens beekeeper.



Help us
pass Georgia
HB 671.
TODAY!

Above: Our "Save the Honey Bee" License Plate – designed by Master Beekeeper Julia Mahood – is now a bill before the GA Legislature. Help us get it passed by calling your local Representatives and Senators.

We need the help of all of our beekeepers in Georgia to get the license plate bill passed. **HB 671** was introduced in the Georgia House by Representative (and fellow beekeeper) Emory Dunahoo last week. If you'd like to see the bill, [here it is](#). **The House is set to vote today – February 1st.**

We are asking everyone in our Georgia bee clubs to contact their legislator to ask him/her to support **HB 671**.

1. You can find out who your legislator is by [entering your zip code here](#). Your representative and your senator in the Georgia Assembly will show up.
2. Click on your representative's name and his/her contact information will show up.
3. Email or call your representative.
4. Tell them that **you live in his/her district, you are a beekeeper, and you would like them to vote to support HB 671.** (It takes two minutes, it's that easy!)

Pass this on to your neighbors, your beekeeping friends, your gardening buddies, anyone who might be willing to call or email their legislator.

Thanks for your help.

I'm sure you are excited to see the Honeybee license plate legislature pass so we can proudly display our honeybee hobby to others. **We are on the home stretch and the bill that approves this plate should be voted on shortly.**

The Georgia Beekeeping Association is asking beekeepers to donate honey to give to our legislatures as a token of appreciation for their support.

Thank you to **Derrick Fowler** who volunteered to collect the honey to get it to the GBA. It was delivered yesterday.

Thanks to everyone that can support this honey roundup.



Dear Aunt Bee,

My club wants to start giving out a *Beekeeper of the Year Award*, but we're not quite sure how to go about it.

I'm curious what other clubs do. Does the membership vote? Do they take nomination letters and then a small committee decides based on what is written about the nominees—and who is on that committee? Does the board lock themselves in a room and when they've decided they light a smoker and the color of the smoke indicates whether or not they've reached a decision???

I'd love to know how other clubs orchestrate their B.O.Y. awards.

Signed,
– *Eager but unsure*

Dear *Eager*,

There are many clubs that give out their own *Beekeeper of the Year Award* in addition to the GBA one. Let's open this to all clubs; please tell us how your club recruits and selects your Beekeeper of the Year Award recipient.

Please respond to gbanewsletters@gmail.com and put "**Beek of the Year**" in the subject line.



**AUNT
BEE!**

**You tell
us!**

THE REVISED BY-LAWS

We will have a focused business meeting in the middle of the day at the GBA Spring Conference. The purpose of the meeting is to review and vote on the revised bylaws. The bylaws committee has worked hard to meet the needs of the members and the needs of GBA.

The main change we made since the fall meeting is that we kept the representative vote for the local clubs as part of the revision. We will welcome each club to appoint a representative to the board and to notify the secretary about who will represent your club. Our worries about managing the numbers of clubs now in our organization and the difficulty of handling the beginning of board meetings will be handled by asking local clubs to follow the bylaws and notify the secretary no later than 72 hours ahead of the board meeting.

A second major change is to increase the number of Directors on the Board from four to six. Six directors will allow the directors to interface with the local clubs on a regular basis.

Please take the time to read the suggested revision of the bylaws. You can read them [here](#) or you can read [an annotated version here](#). The annotated version has the committee's rationale in blue print.

We want to use the very short business meeting efficiently. We'd like simply to vote on the bylaws and to limit discussion. This is the sixth or seventh opportunity we have offered for you to familiarize yourself with the bylaws. Please send any questions ahead of the meeting to any member of the bylaws committee ([see GBA web page](#)) or to the Director assigned to your club ([their email addresses are all on the GBA web page](#)).

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
MABA 73	Forsyth 35	NE GA 29	Heart of GA 47	Coastal Empire 34	Henry County 32
Cherokee 24	Beeks of Gilmer 12	Tri County 23	Chattahoochee V 25	Lake Country 29	Potato Creek 29
Gwinnett 18	Appalachian 11	Amicalola 4	SOWEGA 21	Ogeechee 23	W GA 17
Faulkner 17	Mountain Beeks 9	Lake Hartwell 9	Little River 5	Altamaha 17	Coweta County 31
Bartow 10	NW GA 4	Eastern Piedmont 24	Macon 1	Clark's Hill 14	Tarz 19
Cartersville 3	Tri State 1	Oglethorpe 4	SE GA 2	Effingham 18	Thrup 12
Walton 7	Chattahoochee 7		Fine Grove Mid 3	Brier Creek 7	I Metro 13
Polk County 1			Augusta 3		
153	101	81	204	138	133

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia – Jasper, GA

Schedule of events update:

Event:

Appalachian Beekeepers of Georgia - Monthly Meeting
 Speaker: Sammy Hause - Sammy is a local commercial beekeeper that maintains between 75 – 100 hives. He is very successful at growing his bee population year after year and producing excellent honey in large volumes.

Topic: Preparation for Spring

When: Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:00 pm

Location: Pickens County Senior Center,
 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA

Event:

“Introduction to Honey Bees and Beekeeping”
 A one-day beginning beekeeping workshop.
 Date/Time: Sat. Feb. 24, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm*
 Place: Pickens County Extension Office building,
 500 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA

*see our website for more information and how to register:
<http://www.pickensbeekeepers.com>

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

Our **2018 Bee School** is March 24th. Please share the date with your friends and fellow beekeepers.

The class is geared to the beginner but everyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, First Lessons in Beekeeping book, one year membership in our club and gifts from the hive. \$40 for non-members, \$35 for members, and \$30 for additional family members. We are limited to 40 attendees. Payment is due by March 13th. Please send checks payable to Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County to:

Beekeepers of Gwinnett
 P.O. Box 566
 Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0566

Dr. Keith Delaplane was our speaker in January. Keith shared a short version of his Fall 2017 GBA presentation, “Bees in Nature and What They Can Teach Us”. This is a very interesting presentation that puts a new perspective about the history of beekeeping and gave us a perspective of how we can better simulate what Mother Nature did for our bees.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett (cont'd)

In February we will have our first **Garage Sale** and a **general discussion** about our bees. Many of us have already shared our stories about the high number of hives that did not make it through the winter. Most have reported the dead hives had small clusters and were frozen.



Nucs for Sale!

James Shepherd of Flippin Bees and a member of our club, will be selling nucs at a discounted price to Gwinnett Beekeepers Members as a special offer. Normally his nucs sell for \$165 each, but club members can purchase them for \$150.

James raises his bees in Northern Florida and will bring the nucs to Statham for distribution. He plans to have them available the 3rd week in April. We will have an exact date as this time approaches.

All orders must be paid in full prior to delivery and you **MUST BE PRESENT** the day of delivery to pick up your order or make arrangements with someone else to pick them up. There will be no refunds if you cannot collect your order.

You can either write a check to the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County or use your credit card to pay for these nucs. The club will collect the money for these orders. All orders must be placed and paid by our monthly meeting on **April 9th**.

Clark Hill Beekeeping

Clark Hill Beekeeping will hold the next meeting on **February 5, 2018**, starting at 7:00 pm.

Father Venon Knight will be the speaker. Clark Hill Beekeeping meets in Appling, Georgia.

Coastal Area Beekeeper Association

FUNdamentals of Beekeeping 101 Workshop
February 24, 9 am to 4:30 pm
Oatland Island Wildlife Center, Savannah, Ga.

Interested in becoming a beekeeper? Come learn the basics of beekeeping from Coastal Area Beekeeper Assn. members through classroom and hands-on experiences. Topics range from “getting started” to “managing your bees in an urban environment.” To register, visit <https://ceba.wildapricot.org/event-2771464>

For more information, email ceba.oiw@gmail.com.

We have set up a CEBA Facebook event listing for the workshop at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1615143521940336/>

Forsyth Beekeepers

Forsyth Beekeepers will host their annual bee school **March 3rd** in Cumming at Sawnee Mountain Park.

Presenters are local, experienced, certified keepers recognized by the UGA Master Beekeeper program, who will be mentoring new keepers throughout the year. This is a classroom setting (no live bees), with a follow up hive-side class in April. This school helps prepare casual beekeepers, as well as those interested in becoming certified beekeepers. Topics include:

- honeybee life cycle and biology
- equipment - what you need and where to put it
- protective gear
- swarm and nectar management
- extracting honey
- preventing disease and pests
- feeding and treating your bees
- monitoring your bees each season

Students may order bees (5 frame honey bee nucs) at this class for late March pick-up. Lunch is included.

Please see tinyurl.com/BeeSchool2018 for more details, and to sign up. Pay at the door.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



This is **Rebekah and Dave Marshall**, and 3 week old baby **Madeline**. Madeline's first social occasion was to attend the MABA January meeting.

MABA will meet at 7 pm on **February 14**, at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Our speaker, Virginia Webb will speak on all things beeswax.

NEW Location! (As of March!)

This will be our last meeting at the Garden. In **March** we will meet every *3rd Tuesday*, at the **Peachtree Road United Methodist Church** in Buckhead.

Northwest GA Beekeeping

The second annual Lafayette, GA, **Honeybee Festival** will be held on **Saturday, June 2, 2018**. We bring in people from many states to learn about honeybees and pollinators. It is a fun filled day of vendors, bands, and contests. If you are interested in selling your honey or any products made from honey or beeswax you can contact us at <http://my-honeybeefestival.com> for booth information. The cost of a booth is \$25.00 until April then the price will go up.

We also have an education tent and would like to invite you to come and be a part of educating the people about bees and how to save the honeybees and pollinators.

Lake Country Beekeepers

On **Saturday January 27th**, the Lake Country Beekeepers Association of Hancock County hosted their **6th Annual Beekeeping Workshop** and welcomed a record crowd of interested beekeepers. We were honored to host, Keith Fielder, Bruce Morgan and Dr. Brett Nolan, three experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers as our speakers. There was an enthusiastic response to the workshop pre-registration and turnout, as over 100 people from over 20 counties in the wider east central Georgia area were in attendance. The Lake Country Beekeepers Association appreciated the spacious and clean accommodations of the Oconee Fall Line Technical College plus the delicious lunch catered by Richard Dunagan and his crew at Straw's BBQ.

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association meets monthly on the **3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm at the Hancock County Library** in Sparta, GA. *This is a new time and location!* More beekeepers mean more bees. Thank to all who attended and helped to make this event a success.

Club Meeting: **NEW time & location!**
Thursday, February 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Hancock County Library
8984 East Broad Street (Hwy 15 South)
SPARTA, GA

Speaker: Panel of experienced beekeepers
Topic: How to love your bees better

Watch Your Back!

It's February and I am gearing up for spring thinking about packages of new bees or re-queening & splits, equipment purchases and prep while keeping attentive to weather. Actually spotted a few dandelions the other day. BUT I also spotted a June 2015 ABJ article on "**The Back of a Beekeeper**" by **William Blomstedt**. It offers tips and exercises for keeping a healthy back. Probably the most important tool for a beekeeper. Here is a quick summary: The **keys for keeping a healthy back** are loose hamstrings, a strong core and maintaining flexibility. Use your hamstrings when you lift. Warm up with some jumping jacks or running in place. I know, we will all look silly especially if we are fully suited. But it's better if your neighbor talks to or phones your family verses 911.

When lifting, always keep your feet shoulder-width apart, BEND your knees, and keep your body balanced in a vertical column. Know your center of gravity and don't lean out to lift something. And this tip was especially helpful to me: if you have to turn with something heavy in your hands, use your feet and take a step. The article goes on showing photos demonstrating various strengthening and stretching exercises. Consider a 15 minute routine at the end of your day doing exercises such as the modified hurdler, the pretzel stretch, arm-leg extensions, chest lifts, lunges and body weight squats. An internet search will surely offer a video version of these general exercises. I use a free Nike Training App on my phone loaded with workouts plus audio and visual guidance. Building your daily exercise routine will seem like a pain, but an easier pain than the physical back pain.

Lake Hartwell Beekeeper Association

The Lake Hartwell Beekeeper Association is having a beginning beekeeping "**Short Course**" on **Saturday, February 24** from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Lavonia Georgia. Cost is \$50 per person or \$75 for a couple. Included in registration is 8 classes, lunch, door prizes, 2018 membership in LHBA and hive inspections. Contact lakehartwellbeeclub@gmail.com to register.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Tri-State Beekeepers

Our February meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018**. We will meet at 7:00 pm at 114 Pace Drive, Trenton, GA. Randy Rolen will speak on 10 mistakes new beekeepers make.

Troup County Beekeepers

We held our first meeting of the year and welcomed new bee keepers. We talked about getting started in beekeeping, covered building your first hive, and put together some frames and hive bodies. We gave away an 8 frame deep donated by Rossman Apiaries.



February 19 will be our next meeting at the Ag Center at 7 pm. Our meetings are located at 21 Vulcan Rd. Lagrange Ga. Steve Page will speak on making splits.

We will deliver hives to Heard County HS art program to be painted for our 3rd annual Hive Painting contest.

West Georgia Beekeepers Association

Programs for 2018

February 26th– Barry Bolling / Bee Calendar

March 26th – Gadgets

April 23rd – Steve Page : Splits/ Queen rearing

May 12th – Picnic: Utter Place/ Heritage Baptist Church

June 25th – Round Table

July 23rd – To be announced

August 27th – Alan Bradd: Varroa/Pests/Winter Prep

September 24th – To be announced

October 22nd - Honey Show

November 26th – Barry Bolling/Bee Calendar

December xx – Christmas Party



The GBA Spring Conference is here!

The 2018 GBA spring conference is just a few days away. There is still time for you to **contact any of the vendors** (see the list below) who will be there, place an order with them for delivery at the conference, and have your order delivered free. You can potentially save enough by not paying shipping charges to order additional items.

This is a great perk for coming to the conference; saving money, and supporting the vendors who support the GBA and help make our conferences possible.

Don't delay, order today.

The spring meeting will be on February 16 & 17 at the UGA Griffin campus.

*\$45 for members,
\$65 for non-members.*

*Sign-up **before** 2/10
to get the \$45 rate.*

Vendors at the 2018 Spring Conference

Below are the vendors who will be at our 2018 Spring Conference. Those who sell equipment may be able to take orders ahead of the meeting, saving you shipping costs or a drive to their store. Please contact them ahead of the conference if you'd like to place an order to pick up at the meeting.

BeeHive Thermal
Beekeeper on Duty
Buster's Bees
Dave Miller Bees
Mann Lake
Max Bags and Gifts
Mountain Sweet Honey
My Hive Tool
Rossman Bees
USDA

Come for the Speakers, Stay for the Ad Auction!

- Have you noticed the ads on the side of the [GBA website](#)?
- Have you wished or wondered how your bee business could be pictured there?
- It's easy – bid for the space at the Spring Conference!

The real estate is so valuable that Bill Owens swears by it. He makes sure that Georgia Bee Removal gets the winning bid for the top slot every single year.

To participate in the auction, we would love it if you would [come to the Spring Conference](#) and *bid for your space*.

However, it is also acceptable to send someone to bid for you. That person should have your proxy and a checkbook.

Bid early and bid often!

Register for the Conference:
[https://gba17.wildapricot.org/
event-2710124](https://gba17.wildapricot.org/event-2710124)

Georgia Bee Removal
www.GaBeeRemoval.com

Jarrett Apiaries
Jarrett Apiaries
3lb. Packages,
5 Frame Nucs,
and Queens
www.jarrettdoes.com
706-677-2854
706-677-2854

The Buzz Fuzz
THE BUZZ FUZZ
229-886-7663

Doc's Healing Hives and Honey
www.docsh healinghives.org



AN INTERESTING READ:

Flowers Express 'Invisible' Heat Patterns to Attract Bees
From [Science](#), a Flipboard magazine by Gizmodo

Over the course of evolution, flowers and pollinating insects have developed an intimate, mutually beneficial relationship. To get the...

New Competitive Classes to Debut at This Year's Artisan's Show

In addition to old favorites like meads, honey beer, honey beverages and the honey cake, this year's Artisan's Show will feature a number of new classes for GBA members to try their hands at. These classes were added to increase the diversity of products our members could bring to exhibit. A brief description of each of the new classes follows below.

Class 7: Honey Cake (open recipe). So often we hear "why don't you use a honey cake recipe that is more appealing?" The short answer to that question is because that recipe is the traditional recipe used in Welsh style honey shows, and it effectively serves to level the playing field by setting a uniform set of ingredients. The traditional honey cake is truly a test of the baker's individual skill. We do stand by tradition, but we saw no reason to prevent our members from entering their favorite recipes as well. So, we added this open class to let our cake (and cupcake) makers bring their very best efforts to the show and let those creative talents shine!

Class 9: Breads. Cake baking is not the only outlet for our members who love to bake! Why not allow our members to bring the best of their breads, biscuits, and rolls to the show as well?

Class 10: Confections. Cakes are not the only sweet treat made with honey! We wanted to offer a class for our members who had great recipes for other honey-sweetened treats. 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. So almost any honey-sweetened item that doesn't classify as a cake or a bread would qualify as a confection!

Class 12: Poetry. Artistry can come in many forms. One of the most ancient and universal is poetry. For our members who have the gift of gab, or for those who might fancy themselves wordsmiths, a honey or bee themed poem might bring home a blue ribbon this year!

Class 14: Needlecraft. Over the years we have seen so many beautiful examples of finely crafted textiles in our shows. We decided it was time to our needlecrafters a class of their own. A needlecraft exhibit might include one or more elements of knitting, crochet, lace, embroidery, quilting, cross-stitch, needlepoint, or weaving...or anything else so long as it encompasses the use of needle(s) and thread.

Class 15: Notions, Potions, & Lotions. It is high time the lip balm, lotion, and soap makers got their own class! However, this is not only the bath and beauty class. This class includes any and all health, bath, or beauty products, or any cleaner, polish, tincture, compound, or concoctions of the member's own creation.

Class 16: Gadgets. The old favorite is back! If you invent, create, improve, or just come up with any new tool, device, or GADGET that somehow improves or helps with some element of beekeeping we want to see it!

Class 18: Electronic Media. We beekeepers can be an old-fashioned crowd, but time marches forward, and with it so does technology. It is time we offered our tech-savvy members an outlet to show off their skills. Electronic media is any media that can be generated, viewed, or shared with an audience via an electronic device. Don't forget to bring your own appropriate device to display your entry on!

So there you have it! These are the new classes we've added to the **2018 Artisan's Show**.

Please see the complete, official rules for the Artisan's Show at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Georgia/honey-Shows>. If you have any questions regarding the Artisan's Show or anything in the rules, you can contact the GBA Honey Show Committee Chairman, **Brutz English**, via email at brutzenglish@gmail.com or via cell or text at (770) 843-2110.

*Bees are more than a hobby; they are
a life study, in many respects a
mirror of our own society.*

—William Longgood





**SPRING
MEETING
2018**

FEBRUARY 16 & 17

UGA GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Featuring the

SPRING

ARTISAN

SHOW

AND THE

WEBSITE AD

AUCTION

EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*

SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Arthur "Brutz" English

Tim Hoffman

Rick Moore

Sophia Price

Broadus Williams

Jane Quattlebaum



Diana Sammataro, PhD

Diana Sammataro, co-author of the *Beekeeper's Handbook* (4th ed. 2011), began keeping bees in 1972 in Connecticut, setting up a colony in her maternal grandfather's old bee hive equipment. From then on, she decided that her B.S. in landscape architecture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, would not be a career, but that honey bees would. In 1978 she joined Peace Corps and taught beekeeping in the Philippines for 3 years. On returning, she worked at the USDA Bee Lab in Madison, WI under Dr. Eric Erickson, studying the effects of plant breeding and flower attraction of bees in sunflower lines. In 1991 she was accepted at the Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Lab at Ohio State University to study for a Ph.D. researching tracheal mites. In 1995, she worked as a post-doctoral assistant at Ohio State University with Dr. James Tew and in 1998 at the Penn State University bee lab, with Maryann Frazier. Early in 2002, she joined the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Center in Tucson AZ.



Adam Finkelstein

Adam Finkelstein owns and operates VP Queen Bees producing artificially inseminated breeder queens used as breeding stock by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers throughout the USA and abroad. VP Queen Bees collaborates with the USDA at Baton Rouge and other migratory outfits to select for mite resistance and productivity. All VP Queen Bees colonies are treatment free and have been for 19 years. Working with others (groups and individuals) to design and plan bee breeding programs is Adam's greatest joy and interest. VP Queen Bees offers a yearly class on honey bee insemination.



Dr. Keith S. Delaplane, MBE

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 16

5:00-6:15 PM Board Meeting, Stuckey Auditorium

6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, Kiwanis Club

7:00 PM Dinner (Kiwanis Club) & lecture by Diana

Sammataro: *The fascinating world of microbes and fungicides*

Saturday, February 17

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 Stuckey Building classroom (follow signage)

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

8:45-9:30 Diana Sammataro: *What are mites?*

9:30-10:15 Adam Finkelstein: *Pointers for success in a local bee breeding program*

10:15-10:45 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

10:45-11:30 Morning Breakout Sessions A

11:40-12:30 Business Meeting

12:30-1:15 **LUNCH**

1:00 Announce Artisan show awards

1:15-2:00 Keith Delaplane

2:00-2:45 Adam Finkelstein: *Breeding bees for mite resistance and performance*

2:45-3:15 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

3:15-4:00 Afternoon Breakout Sessions B

4:00-4:30 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey*

4:30 **Website Auction** in Stuckey Auditorium

4:45-5:30 Diana Sammataro: *Honey plants*

5:30 Raffle drawings, 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



Bobby Chaisson began beekeeping over ten years ago with two hives. His beekeeping adventure quickly grew, selling honey and doing bee removals. In 2015 Bobby went to work full time with Georgia Bee Removal. He performs hundreds of removals a year and is one of Georgia's leading experts for bee removals. Bobby is the president of Tri-County Beekeepers Association is active in MABA and GBA.



Reese Haren is a hobbyist beekeeper in his third year, although in the mid 70s he helped his dad out with his bees. He is a Certified Beekeeper through the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute and is a member of the Gwinnett and Forsyth clubs as well as GBA.



Cindy Hodges is a native Atlantan and Urban beekeeper with 50+ colonies in North Georgia including roof top hives in downtown Atlanta. She is a Georgia Master Craftsman Beekeeper, EAS Master Beekeeper, and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. In 2012 Cindy was awarded the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. She is a past President Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association and founded the MABA Junior Beekeeper Program.



Dan Long owns and operates a mail order nursery in Athens, GA. He is a Journeyman Beekeeper and has always had a strong interest in observation hives. He has worked with others and built his own for public and personal use.



Jenia Molotkova and Haley Martin are undergraduate biology majors at Georgia Tech. Both are members of the BeeSNAP VIP team where they conducted this work under the guidance of Jennifer Leavey (Director of the Urban Honey Bee Project), as well as Jason Riedy (from the School of Computational Science and Engineering).



Deja Perkins is a senior at Tuskegee University majoring in environmental science, natural resources, and plant sciences. She completed her study in Dr. Terry Snell's lab at Georgia Tech in the summer of 2017 while participating in the USDA-funded Bee-INSPIRED undergraduate research program directed by Jennifer Leavey of the Urban Honeybee Project.



Lynn Williams from Page, South Carolina is a beekeeper and inventor with 40 plus years at Industrial Automation Controls & Systems.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each breakout session is held in the morning and repeats in the afternoon.

Jenia Molotkova and Haley Martin: *Where Do Bees Find Food In The City?* - Stuckey Auditorium

This Georgia Tech team mapped where dozens of bee-friendly tree species are located in Atlanta and compared the bloom times reported in scientific literature with visual verification. Our optimal forage maps can help urban beekeepers decide when and where to place their bees, and can help model how climate change affects the nectar flow.

Deja Perkins: *The Effect of Oxalic Acid on Honey Bee Larvae* SLC room 105

A Tuskegee University study shows that oxalic acid is toxic to honey bee larvae at doses 10X lower than what is recommended for treating adult bees. Our work suggests that using oxalic acid in hives with uncapped brood will likely have a significant negative impact on colony health.

Dan Long: *Observation Hives- See Your Bees Like Never Before!*

SLC room 116

Learn the ins and outs of buying or building your own observation hive, installing it and maintaining it. The observation hives provide an unparalleled opportunity to observe the seasonal and daily activity of honey bees without disturbing the colony. Whether it's in a public location or your own living room, it will be both fun and educational.

Cindy Hodges: *The Georgia Propolis Project* SLC room 115

An introduction to propolis, its collection and uses by bees and people. Cindy will discuss her recent research to encourage propolis collection by the bees.

Bobby Chaisson: *The Ups and Downs of Bee Removals* SLC room 104

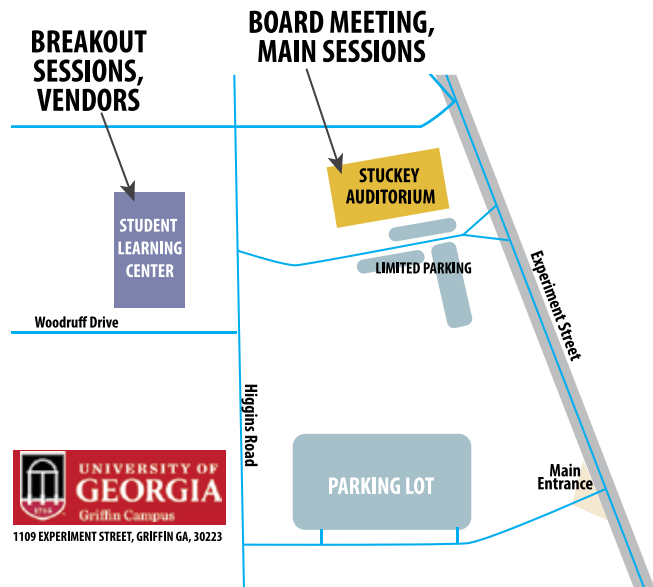
Explore the techniques and expenses involved in the safe removal of bees. With many years of bee removal experience to draw from, Bobby will show you what you should expect and some things you may not have thought about before you jump into removing bees from structures.

Reese Haren: *Two Seasons with the Flow Hive* SLC room 216

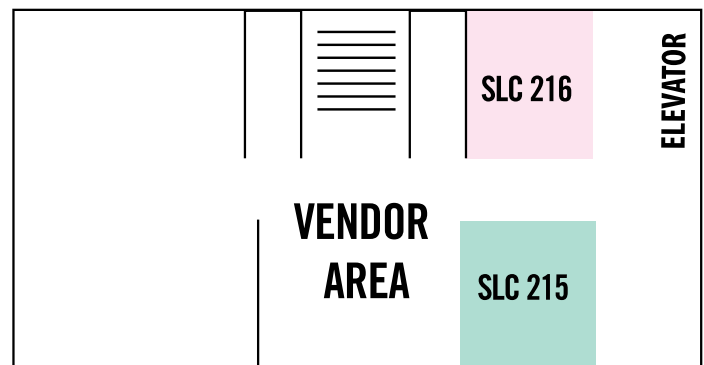
Reese will present an overview of his two seasons using flow hive equipment. On display he will have a "factory cedar super" and a ten frame deep he modified to hold flow hive frames, along with the equipment needed to harvest at the hive. Videos of bee activity and harvest are in the presentation.

Lynn Williams: *Science vs. Varroa Mites* SLC Room 215

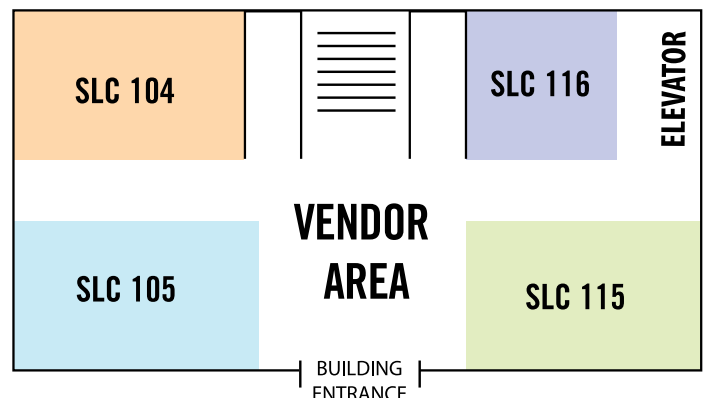
European studies in 2002 showed that temperature coupled with time kills varroa mites in the hive and capped brood cells. This results in healthier bees, a larger colony, increased honey production, and less stress on the colony.



CAMPUS MAP



STUDENT LEARNING CENTER SECOND FLOOR



STUDENT LEARNING CENTER FIRST FLOOR



Spilling *The* Honey

MARCH 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Spring GBA Conference in Griffin, GA, began with a catered dinner, featuring one of our speakers, Dr. Diana Sammataro. Everyone enjoyed catching up with fellow beekeepers and reconnecting. On our follow-up survey many people said the reason they came to the dinner was to enjoy a social experience before the meeting.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the meeting a great one. The meeting committee included Jennifer Berry, Brutz English, Derrick Fowler, Gina Gallucci, Julia Mahood, Slade Mercer, and Linda Tillman. We had lots of help from people who sold raffle tickets while others sold t-shirts. Many people helped with setup for the banquet and for the president's breakfast. And others helped with clean up at the end of the day. I am not naming individuals because I am sure I would leave someone out, but if you helped, know that we are very, very grateful. People volunteered everywhere – helping at registration, helping at the honey show, helping with the coffee, and on and on. And volunteer energy is what it's all about here at GBA.

I am delighted to report that the revised bylaws passed with an overwhelming majority. That almost all of you recognized the need for positive change for GBA marked for me the improvement in communication between the board and the membership. Our directors and I are feeling our way into this territory of better connection, learning as we go, but it seems to be working.

As a result of the new bylaws, our board of directors has expanded and changed. We officially have six directors, three of whom will be coming up for election in the fall. The webmaster now holds a voting position on the board. Every GBA local club can send a voting representative to the board by following the instructions about notifying the secretary in advance. All local club representatives will be notified of every board meeting, including the ones held by conference call.

Our officers going forward will hold two year positions, with two elected each year to promote continuity. This will keep each set of officers from having to reinvent the wheel because the administrators will overlap. The president and vice-president will be elected in even-numbered years and the secretary and Treasurer will be elected in odd-numbered years.

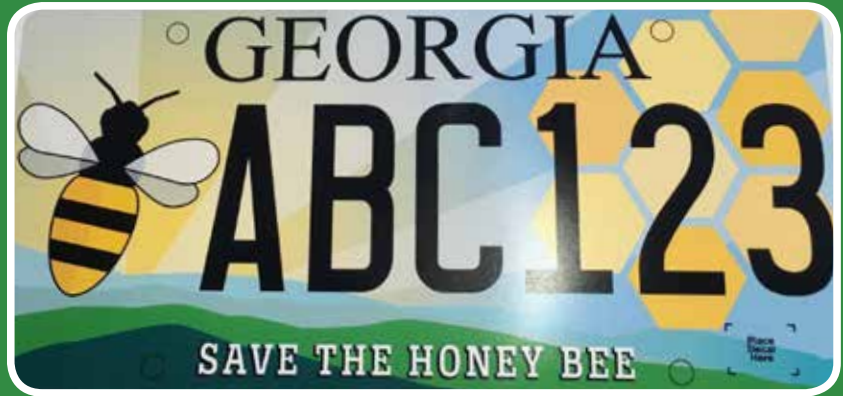
New worlds in technology opened up with bylaws approval. We can now within the bylaws hold meetings by conference call or communicate officially by email. We can use the forum on Wild Apricot to hold discussions about GBA business.

Best of all, the new bylaws solidify the role of the directors as liaisons to the local clubs. Each director has been assigned up to eight clubs. Those director/club connections will soon be listed on the website so if you need to connect with your director, that information will be easy to find.

We are always working at GBA to try to make the organization better in every way for you, the members.

Bee well,
Linda T

HB 671 Passed the House 168-0!



Above: Our “Save the Honey Bee” License Plate. Below, right: Tim Doherty, Gail Dean and Derick Fowler of the GBA Legislative Team at the Georgia Capital on February 1st.

On February 1st, the Georgia House of Representatives passed our specialty license plate bill in a unanimous vote! The bill was sent to the Senate and assigned to the Public Safety Committee. According to Senator Albers, the Chair, it will be heard after crossover day, meaning it will likely be voted on in committee on the 7th or 14th of March. If it passes there, it will move to the Rules Committee, and if successful there, will be assigned to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If it passes there, then it will be sent to the Governor for signature.



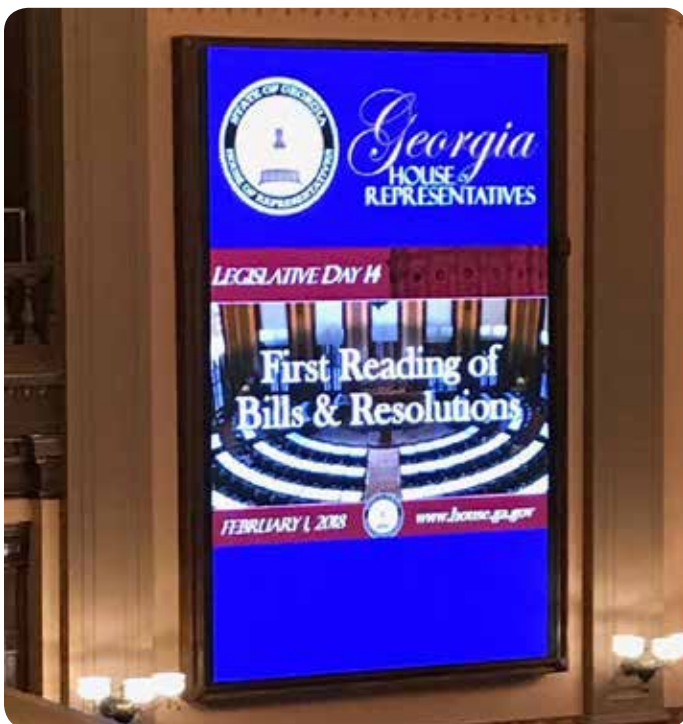
We wouldn't be this far along in the process if it weren't for the help of the legislative committee, including Co-chair **Tim Doherty**, **Brutz English**, **Bobby Chaisson**, **Al Shackelford**, **Bob Grant**, **Katie Goodman**, and GBA officers **Linda Tillman**, **Gina Gallucci** and **Derrick Fowler**. And I must point out that everyone loves the license plate design by Julia Mahood!

A word of caution – there are about a million things that can happen to a bill under the Gold Dome that can cause a delay in passage or implementation. We are hoping for the best, but plan on keeping up the good fight if all does not go according to plan.

Feel free to contact me at gailjdean@gmail.com with any comments, questions or suggestions. Please sign up for updates at <https://gabeekeeping.com>.

Gail J. Dean
Legislative Co-chair

[You can watch the vote [here](#).]



Much thanks to all of you that called and emailed your legislators encouraging them to support the bill. And a special thanks to those who donated their honey! Your precious liquid gold was placed in gift bags and placed on the desks of all 180 members of the House of Representatives and all 56 members of the Senate, the Lt. Governor and the Governor. Honey was also given to numerous aides and staff of the General Assembly Post Office.



Meet Juliana Rangel

– at the GBA Fall 2018 Conference

AS soon as the cars drive out of the parking lot at the Spring Conference, planning begins for the next one. Speakers have

been lined up for our **2018 fall conference** for quite some time, thanks to Jennifer Berry, who arranges our keynote speakers for the conferences.

One of our four keynote speakers for fall is Juliana Rangel, currently a professor at the department of Entomology at Texas A&M. Juliana is originally from Columbia and had always been interested in tropical ecology. She first worked with bees in undergraduate school in California and became hooked, as we all do! She has studied with Dr. Tom Seeley before she moved to Texas A&M in 2013.

I heard Dr. Rangel speak on raising queens at MABA in 2011. I put my extensive [notes on her talk up online](#), if you'd like to read about her talk then. I remember her as personable and an easy speaker to enjoy. I had the pleasure of hearing another talk by her on the biology of the bee colony at Young Harris in 2012.

To see her in a YouTube video which she presented at the National Honey Show in England, [click here](#). The talk she is giving is a very fascinating one on the biology of mating.

And you can hear her too at our **Fall GBA Conference** on **September 27 - 29, 2018**. We are moving to a new location for our fall meeting. We will gather at the [Lanier Tech/Forsyth Conference Center](#) to learn as many new things about beekeeping as we can in a two day conference.

SAVE THE DATE and you too can meet and learn from Juliana Rangel's extensive knowledge of the honey bee.



GETTING CLUB SPEAKERS

AT the President's breakfast, we discussed how helpful it would be to know what speakers are giving programs at the various clubs. Most bee clubs have education of other beekeepers as their mission. To satisfy this, a club has to figure out how to get and support good speakers.

This **post-it** is designed to help you with your effort to get speakers.

We offer [a list of possible speakers](#) on the GBA website. The list includes topics which the speaker has offered. We don't put speaker fees on the site because often these are negotiable.

In addition to that list, you can watch the newsletter for speakers and topics being offered at other clubs. And you can visit the Facebook pages or club web pages. Kelley Campbell, a GBA member, often finds out about speakers at clubs not too far from her home base of Forsyth. She then gets up a field trip of fellow beekeepers to visit that club with her to hear the speaker.

An important aspect of getting a speaker is to treat your speaker well. I wrote an article about how to treat your speaker in [Bee Culture](#) which you can read for ways to make your speaker feel welcomed.

Jane Quattlebaum, who presented a breakout on this topic at the spring conference, suggested several guidelines:

1. Be creative in how you welcome your speaker:
 - a. Treat them to dinner
 - b. Take them on a tour of your town
 - c. Provide them with a gift basket of goodies made by club members
 - d. Give them a club t-shirt
 2. Join with other clubs to bring in a bigger-name speaker
 - a. Jane's example: Brier Creek and Augusta Beekeepers could bring Jennifer Berry in for a talk and meet at the farmers market on a weeknight. Both clubs pitch in for Jennifer's Honorarium and this central location means a 45 minute drive for just about all involved.
 3. Pay an honorarium - for most it should be between \$100 - \$300
 - a. If you are short of funds, hold a special raffle to bring in funds
 - b. Jane's club did this and raised \$450 to pay for Jamie Ellis
 4. Always write a real thank-you card – not an email.
- (Thank you, Jane, for the good ideas)

I'm going to try to have a Post-It column in each issue of Spilling the Honey, so if you have topics that would help your club, [let me know](#) or let your director know.

– **Linda Tillman, GBA President**

IS IT HONEY? {PART 3} – by Bob Grant

This is the most difficult installment to write. I don't relish the notion that a small percentage of beekeepers could knowingly adulterate their honey and sell it as pure honey. I want to believe that beekeepers hold the highest regard for bees and the honey they produce. Honest beekeepers will not sacrifice quality and will work tirelessly to protect their reputation by *not* altering honey.

Let's get one item off the table quickly – non-intentional inclusion of sugar in honey. How does this happen, if at all? Well, many beekeepers feed their bees 1:1 or 2:1 sugar syrup to support colony growth, pre-winter food stores build-up, dearth offset and increased brood production. Just prior to the spring and sourwood flows, beekeepers stop feeding the sugar syrup so that most of the raw honey produced (by these acts of kindness and management) is consumed by the colony prior to the nectar flow. Unfortunately, this is not an exact science so some of this sugar-honey can mix with the nectar-honey. This is acceptable and understandable, but more importantly, unintentional! The percentage of sugar formed honey should be no more than a few percentage points.

There are **two practices** which lead toward adulterated honey.

The **first** includes feeding bees with either sugar or high fructose corn syrups (HFCS) during flow or continuously to increase honey production. It's true, these solutions have passed through the bees to become "honey." However, during my training to become a honey judge steward, the instructor showed us a classic example of honey produced from HFCS. It was gelatinous! It didn't pour like honey but came out in globs - not what we want to sell to our customers.

The **second** practice is the dilution of honey with sugar or corn syrups. This is truly insidious in my opinion. In part one of this series I showed two examples of this intentional practice. In the first, the bottlers disclosed this on the back label by including a list of ingredients including the word syrup (although in one case the "disclosure" was somewhat misleading.)

In the second case, the beekeeper combined the syrup after-the-fact into pure honey to increase the volume available for sale. I understand that beekeeping and the sale of honey is critical to the financial sustainability of micro and large-scale honey producers. Unfortunately, the adulteration of honey is dishonest for all including the hobbyist beekeeper. Let's explore some potential reasons.

For the honey consumer, it is fraud since they are paying for pure honey and getting something less. Those customers seeking to use honey for health-related issues may not get the benefits attributed to pure honey. In fact, as mentioned in Part 1 of the series, it can be detrimental to a consumer's health, especially those with Diabetes.

For the remaining (honest) honey producers, it can become difficult to sell pure honey because some customers react to it in a negative way. They easily notice that it doesn't taste the same. One large beekeeper told me that he was tired of customers telling him that his Sourwood honey was not the real thing. This is less of a problem at farmers markets where there is direct interaction between the beekeeper and the customer. In this venue, beekeepers can explain the process used to bring honey to market. But in traditional retail stores, this interaction is eliminated, potentially leading customers to buy once and never again if the flavor is not what they were expecting. I have heard this concern expressed by both large and small honey producers. There is

For ... (honest) honey producers, it can become difficult to sell pure honey because some customers react to it in a negative way.

also a significant price difference which limits honest producers/ bottlers from receiving a fair return for their efforts.

For the hobbyist, they may face questions on honey taste being different as well. This can

also impact the credibility of the larger beekeeping community, in a time when we are trying to win support on numerous issues which impact our bees. It is wise to remember, all things are interconnected and interdependent.

Another problem raised by many beekeepers is the selling non-local honey as local honey. While this doesn't rise to the same level as adulterated honey, it is a credibility issue which is disconcerting to local beekeepers including a potential health issue for consumers looking for allergy relief. Depending on who you speak with, the consumption of honey for allergy relief must come from a 50-mile radius from where the sufferer is or lives. The majority of

(continued on next page)

IS IT HONEY? {PART 3} – (CONT'D)

beekeepers I have spoken with indicate that the homogeneity of plants and trees is a more accurate way as to determine “local.” So, the 50-mile rule could be too much or too little depending on which of the five regions you are in. Personally, when I am selling to a non-local purchaser, I make it a habit to inform them that my honey is good for this area’s allergens and they should seek out a local beekeeper in their area who can provide them with honey containing the specific pollens they need for where they live. In these situations, I switch my sales pitch to flavor and knowing your beekeeper.

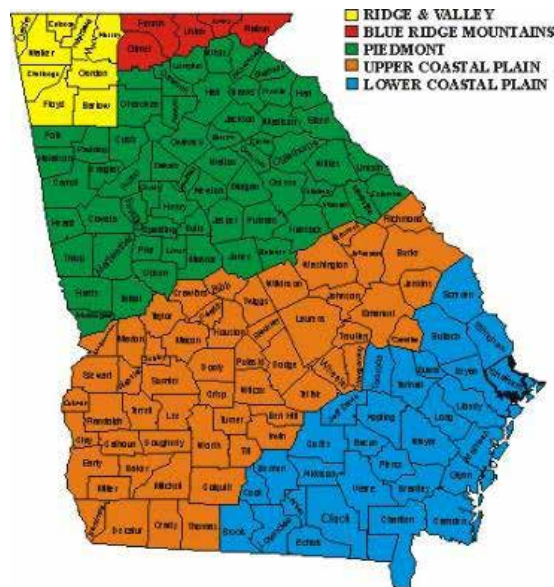
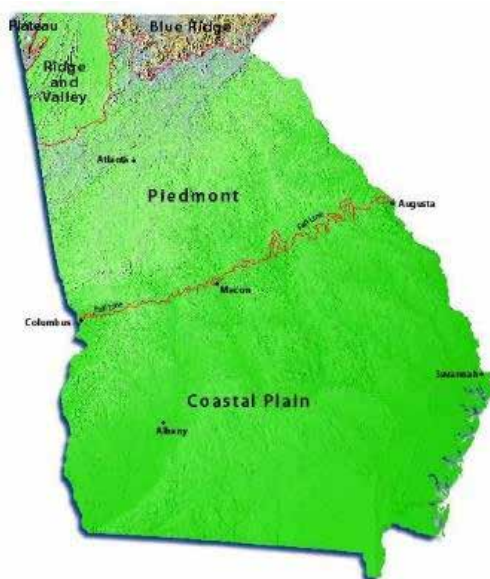
The state of Georgia is divided into five geographic regions which can vary depending on which map you choose to rely on. Both are shown here.

There is a distinct variation between the two State of Georgia Maps.

One of the beekeepers I have spoken with during my quest for a common “local” definition is Bear Kelley. Bear lives in what is regarded as the (Upper) coastal plains even though he is toward the center of the state. His take on “local” has to do with the commonality of plants and trees in a “local” area. Bear, a former GBA president and speaker on what honey really is, offered two additional insights into the subject of this article. First, you can identify the presence of HFCS in honey using an analog refractometer. When you read the results of a honey moisture content test, the line is the demarcation between the upper blue section and the white section below. If HFCS is present the lower white section will appear brownish! Second, some vendors are still selling what they claim is organic honey, but really isn’t. As of September 2015, the USDA eliminated the designation of organic for honey and for reasons we all understand. In fact, about the only honey with this designation comes from other countries. Should we trust them?

So where does all of this leave us? Foremost, it is up to every beekeeper to offer their customers true unadulterated honey from their local hives. It is incumbent on all of us

to explain our beekeeping practices and honey processing including the lengths we go to deliver the highest quality honey. This can only help the beekeeping community at large with the bigger issues we are facing to create a sustainable beekeeping environment and a financially sustainable business.



CALL TO ACTION:

- Setup a Facebook page where folks can post concerns.
- Obtain initial grant monies to test honeys for both adulteration and pollen content to be used to develop a pollen map of Georgia.
- Create GBA guidelines for honey production, process, bottling and labeling.
- Offer a honey production license (if selling to the public) through the GBA.
- Consider having the state laws revised to include stronger enforcement with adequate disincentives to discourage bad practices.

As always, I would appreciate your comments.
Email Bob Grant at bobg.rivercg@gmail.com.

*The views expressed above are not necessarily those of the GBA or its members. Opinions are solely of the author.
– Spilling the Honey Editors*

THE SPRING CONFERENCE IN GRIFFIN

The 2018 GBA Spring Artisan Show Wrap-up!

Part of the GBA's annual Spring Conference is the annual Artisan Show. The Artisan Show is the exhibition and competition for all the fantastic creations, beyond mere honey and beeswax, which our members craft from the bounty of our hives! This year's Artisan Show was a mix of the old and the new, as we doubled the number of competitive exhibition classes from last year's Artisan Show. We had a total of **fifty-two entries** from twenty separate exhibitors in this year's show. The judges made fifty individual awards, including ten First Prizes and the Best in Show award. The total prize money awarded to all exhibitors came to \$1,730.

In this year's Artisan Show there were old favorites like meads and honey beers & ales. Honey beverages were back again this year; though we did sort out the imbibers from the teetotalers. Artwork and crafts were back again, as well as photography. And how could we have an Artisan Show without our beloved old honey cake? We are proud to congratulate **Michael Minardi** (Sweet Mead), **Michael Hogue** (Honey Beer & Ale and Honey Beverages-alcoholic), and **Christy Jones** (Artwork), all of whom took home First Prizes!

The new classes in this year's Artisan Show included an open recipe honey cake, honey breads, honey confections, poetry, needlecraft, and electronic media. We also dusted off the old beekeeping gadget class and brought it out of retirement! A testament to the popularity of these new classes was that fully half of all the exhibits entered in the Artisan Show were offered in these new classes (including six poetry entries!) It is with great pleasure we offer congratulations to our members who took home First Prizes in these new classes! **Jane Quattlebaum** (Poetry), **Michael Hogue** (Honey Cake-open recipe and Honey Confections), **Linda Tillman** (Honey Breads), **Stephen Jones** (Gadgets), and **Dan Long** (Electronic Media) all took home blue ribbons!

Every once in a great while, we see a truly impressive showing by an exhibitor at one of our honey shows. The 2018 Artisan Show was one of those occasions. We had one exhibitor who entered fifteen of the eighteen available classes. Of those fifteen entries, he placed in the money (3rd Prize or better) in eleven classes, including four First Prizes and the Best in Show award! His prize money total came to a whopping \$840.00! Our hats are off to **Mr. Michael Hogue** of Augusta, GA, for a masterful performance at the 2018 Artisan Show! We are eagerly looking forward to his entries in this year's State Honey Show at the GBA Fall Conference!

We want to thank all of the people who came together to help with this year's Artisan Show. The GBA Honey Show Committee works throughout the year to plan and orchestrate the GBA's various honey shows. **Bear and Marybeth Kelley, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Broadus Williams, Keith Fielder,** and **Barbara Phillips** have all served tirelessly on this committee for years. The GBA Meeting Committee always ensures we have great facilities for our shows at whatever venue our conferences are held (thanks to **Gina Gallucci, Julia Mahood,** and **Linda Tillman** there)! We couldn't have these shows without judges and show secretaries. Most of those people have already been listed above in other capacities, but thanks to **Gail Dean** and **Nicholas Weaver**, who both always volunteer with a smile! And finally, thank you to all the GBA members who come out to exhibit and compete. These shows are for you! We want you to participate, and we hope to see you all this Fall at the GBA's 2018 State Honey Show!

Brutz English
GBA Honey Show Committee Chairman, Sr. Welsh Honey Judge

The new
show trophies.
Photos by
Steve Page.



**Many thanks to our
honey judges, show
stewards and
secretaries.**

*Below: our Honey Show Judges: (l-r) Gail Dean,
Brutz English, Mary Cahill-Roberts, and
Barbara Phillips*

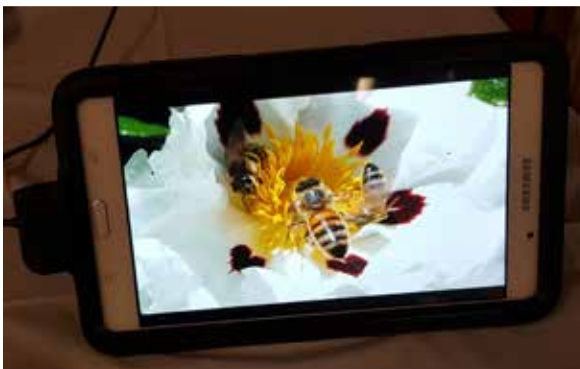


THE SPRING CONFERENCE – (CONT'D)

Winner – Poetry
Jane Quattlebaum

Dance!

*Spring draws nigh.
The sun climbs high.
Cleansing flights begin.
Young foragers spin.
Bees dance with grace.
Clover shows her face.
Pollen sacks brought home.
Bees fill their comb.
New eggs being laid.
Orientations are made.
A piping begins.
Only one queen wins.*



All photos by Rick Moore.

**Some of our winning entries:
beautiful, delicious, innovative!**

Thank you to all our entrants.

Georgia Beekeepers Association
2018 Spring Artisan Show
Official Results

Sweet Mead

1st Place, Michael Minardi
Highly Commendable, Michael Hogue

Dry Mead

2nd Place, Michael Minardi
3rd Place, Rodney Garner
Very Highly Commendable, Michael Hogue
Highly Commendable, Andrea Beyer

Beer & Ale

1st Place, Michael Hogue
2nd Place, Andrea Beyer
Very Highly Commendable, Michael Minardi

Honey Beverages (Alcoholic)

1st Place, Michael Hogue
Very Highly Commendable, Michael Minardi

Honey Beverages (Non-alcoholic)

Very Highly Commendable, Andrea Beyer
Highly Commendable, Michael Hogue
Commendable, Michael Minardi

Honey Cake (traditional)

2nd Place, Michael Hogue
3rd Place, June Stanley

Honey Cake (Open Recipe)

1st Place, Michael Hogue

Designated Baked Item (Honey Almond Beelight)

Very Highly Commendable, Diane Holland

Breads

1st Place, Linda Tillman
2nd Place, Michael Hogue
3rd Place, Claudia Linkows
Very Highly Commendable, Andrea Beyer

Confections

1st Place, Michael Hogue
2nd Place, Bobby Chaisson
3rd Place, Whitney Smith
Very Highly Commendable, Andrea Beyer

Artwork

1st Place, Christy Jones
2nd Place, Michael Hogue
Very Highly Commendable, Andrea Beyer

Poetry

1st Place, Jane Quattlebaum
2nd Place, Sheryl Carey
3rd Place, Michael Hogue
Very Highly Commendable, Dan Long
Highly Commendable, Bear Kelley
Commendable, Whitney Smith

Crafts

2nd Place, Bear Kelley
3rd Place, Sheryl Carey
Very Highly Commendable, Michael Hogue

Needlecrafts

3rd Place, Michael Hogue
Very Highly Commendable, Michelle Mincey
Highly Commendable, Sheryl Carey

Notions, Potions, & Lotions

2nd Place, Michael Hogue
3rd Place, Andrea Beyer

Gadgets

1st Place, Stephen Jones
Highly Commendable, Dan Long

Photography

2nd Place, Michael Hogue
3rd Place, Alan Strong
Highly Commendable, Denise Budde

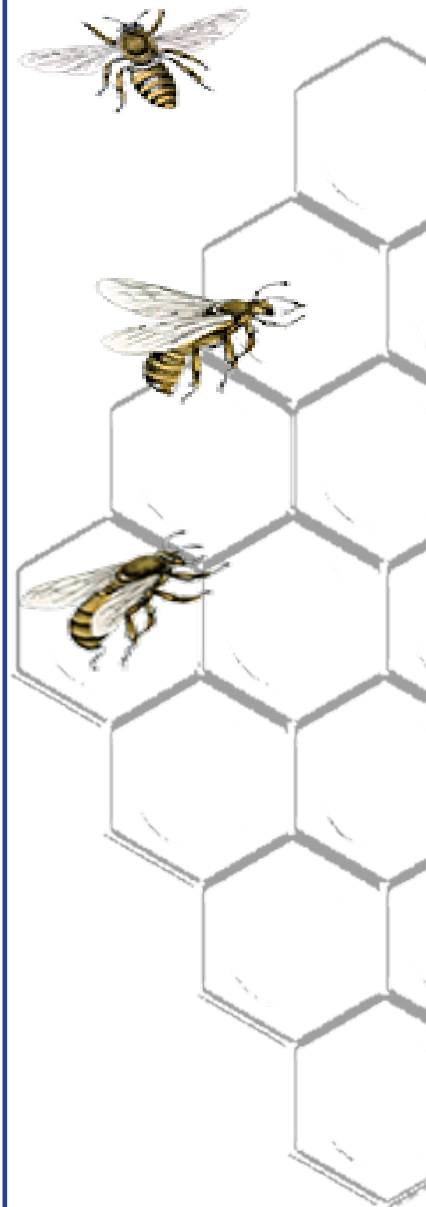
Electronic Media

1st Place, Daniel Long

BEST IN SHOW Michael Hogue - Confections

Officials:

Mary Cahill-Roberts, Senior Judge (presiding)
Brutz English, Senior Judge
Gail Dean, Judge
Barbara Phillips, Judge



The winners! (And the Judges.)



THE SPRING CONFERENCE – (CONT'D)

SEEN AROUND AT THE CONFERENCE...



Jane Quattlebaum welcomes a guest to GBA.



Paul Berry and Harvest Hoffman (above) check-in guests at GBA.



Dr. Delaplane spoke on polyandry.



Kathy Bourn and Julia Mahood sell tickets at the raffle table (below).



Diana Sammataro, our key-note speaker donated a quilt (above-right) to our raffle.



Derick Forester with GBA President Linda Tillman



THE SPRING CONFERENCE – (CONT'D)

SEEN AROUND AT THE CONFERENCE...



GBA member Richard McLeroy of Flovilla GA, brought his 5 year old grandson to the conference. He's a beekeeper, too!



Cindy Hodges (above) gives her talk about Propolis. GBA members (below) gather for lunch, the hallways are crowded with attendees and vendors.



Bobby Chaisson takes a break before his talk on Bee Removals.



Photos by Rick Moore and Holly Bayendor.



THE SPRING CONFERENCE – (CONT'D)

SEEN AROUND THE PARKING LOT...



CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia – Jasper, GA

Appalachian Beekeepers of Georgia will hold our next meeting on **Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 pm**. We meet at Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr., Jasper, GA. Our speaker will be **Greg Collins from The Hillbilly Bee Company** in Blairsville, GA. His topic will be Swarm management and new beekeeper pointers.

We also will hold our **“Field Day” on March 10, 2018, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. At Dancing Meadows Farm, 376 Tally Mountain Rd N, Jasper, GA, hosted by **Bill & Cheryl Norris**. This hands on event is for the ABA members and those who attended the one-day beginning beekeeping workshop. Demonstrations of package installation, frame evaluation, smoker lighting, possibly a split and tricks to queen rearing will be taught.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

This month is a busy time of the year as we prepare for the spring build-up of our bees and the activity of the club reflects that business.

For our February meeting we had a Garage Sale that gave everyone an opportunity to sell items they no longer need.

Bee School:

Your board and Bee School presenters are busy preparing for our **Bee School on March 24th**. This is an all day event and requires a lot of work to make sure it runs smoothly. Door prizes and packages are being prepared. Please spread the word to help us make sure all seats are filled. We are limited to 40 students and each seat is filled on a first come basis.

Nucs for Sale:

James Shepard from Flippin Bees has agreed to sell nucs to our club for reduced pricing of **\$150 each**. These will be available later in April. Your payment must be done in advance and payable to the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County. All money must be collected by April 10th. Please get your orders in early so we can share a count with James.

Speaking Opportunities:

Several schools and a troop of girls from the American Heritage are looking for speakers to spend time educating them on beekeeping. Please let us know if you have an interest in spreading the word. Most only require a couple hours of your time. Please contact **Dave Collins** if you want additional details.

We hope you enjoy the time spent watching your bee hive expand this spring. It was a long tough winter but pollen is starting to be readily available!

Clark Hill Beekeeping

The next meeting of the Clarks Hill Beekeeping Association will be Monday, March 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. located at 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, Georgia.

Coastal Area Beekeeper Association

The Coastal Empire Beekeepers Assn. maintains an apiary within the Oatland Island Wildlife Center in Savannah, Georgia. During Super Museum Sunday (Feb. 11), CEBA members introduced many curious OIWC visitors to honey bees using an observation hive.



Several members, including CEBA president **Greg Stewart** (right) and **Rob Potts**, also attended the GBA spring meeting. Congratulations to **Jane Quattlebaum** for winning First Place in the Artisans Show bee-related poetry competition. She is a CEBA member and a GBA district director who represents a number of bee associations, including CEBA.

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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers

Lake Country Beekeepers Association will host an **Open House in The Hive, Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm** at the Morgan Apiaries located at 196 WJ Archer Road, Sparta, GA 30187. morganhoney.com.

This event will offer 'in the hive' experience for anyone interested in learning to identify the worker and drone brood development, the queen and possible queen cells, pollen and honey, and honey bee behavior and characteristics. **Anne Frey, a Master Beekeeper with Eastern Apicultural Society**, plus many of our club's experienced beekeepers will be there to answer questions and inspect hives with you. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided. Hope you will join us. It's a great way to learn and know other beekeepers. Please bring your veil and gloves.

For more information, please contact **Mary Lacksen** 478.456.1049 or mlacksen@gmail.com

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association took an observation hive plus hive equipment and accessories into two Georgia public schools during February. Over 200 students from the **Hancock County Middle School** learned where honey comes from and the job of a beekeeper. We also traveled to **Cambridge High School in Milton, Georgia**, and served on an Agricultural Career Panel. The Cambridge Agriscience & Veterinary Education (CAVE) is an impressive ag science building with laboratory facilities, stalls and live animals, plus Sarah Nerswick is their young and enthusiastic ag science teacher. Her program has the potential to be a good spot for a permanent observation hive, if anyone is interested. Here we shared with three agricultural and FFA classes about the importance of bees as pollinators. We presented ideas on studies and careers to consider in the Ag Sciences that could lead to a opportunities related to honey bees. It's encouraging to meet young people who are interested in the world of bees, in finding resources on honey bees and beekeeping, and exploring opportunities at our agricultural university programs in Georgia and the southeast.



Powder sugar roll done on Feb. 28th in central Georgia. Tested ~100 bees and yielded ~10% varroa drop. Hive is strong plus 2 frames of capped brood and plenty of stored honey. **Would you treat and with what?**



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers held our first ever **Short Course in Beekeeping on Saturday, February 24**. Our first such event shaped up to be a great success. 40+ people registered. **WOW!!!** Thank you to all who have donated items for door prizes and/or goodie bags, helped promote and gave of your time.

Save-the-date! Special guest speaker **Dr. Mike Hood** will speak at our **March 1 Club meeting**. Dr. Hood, now retired, was the long time head of the Clemson Honey program and professor in the Entomology Dept at Clemson.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)

MABA offers Certified Testing on May 5, 2018

If you've been keeping bees for at least one year, you can take the Certified Beekeeper test in Atlanta on May 5, 2018.

You no longer are required to attend the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in order to take the test for the first level in the **UGA Master Beekeeper program**. Several clubs offer the testing each year, making it easier than ever to achieve this designation!

Why take the Certified test?

- Ensure that you know the basics to be a capable beekeeper. The text for this test is the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith S. Delaplane. It covers a range of beekeeping knowledge that will equip you to handle questions that could come up in your beekeeping practice. With this knowledge under your belt, you'll be a more confident beekeeper.
- Bragging rights: tell the world that you are **Certified!**

Follow this [link to register for the MABA testing](#).
Follow this [link for information about the UGA Master Beekeeping Program](#).

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc. (MABA) – *con't*

NEW Location! (Starting this month)

The next MABA meeting will be **Tuesday, March 20, 2018**. The speaker will be Geoff Williams of the Auburn Bee Lab.

NOTE: Our meetings are moving to the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Buckhead, 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Northwest GA Beekeeping

Northwest Beekeepers Association will be holding our **2nd Annual Honeybee Festival on June 2, 2018**, and invite you to participate.

If you would like to know more about this festival go to cityoflafayettega.org/events/honeybee-festival/.

If you have a non profit group that deals with honeybees, we will set up a special place in the education tent for you to share your honeybee knowledge with the public. Contact us if you are interested in participating. If you are interested in a booth at the festival, go to the site provided above. **We are looking for people to teach on cleaning wax and making candles, lip balm, candles, etc.** It is a fun-filled family event.

The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association

The Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association meets the **last Thursday of the month at Fordham's Restaurant in Statesboro, GA**. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at **6:30 pm**. Each month we have a different speaker. The next meeting will be **March 29th**.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On February 19th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club was fortunate to have **Keith Fielder** speak about the "Seven Things Successful Beekeepers Have In Common".



Keith 'fielding' a question from member Lynn Faust.

Follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/oglethorpebeeclub/videos/1763953240317103/> to see a video **Joe Conti** took at his birdbath showing one bee feeding another that nearly drowned.

Tara Beekeepers Association

Tara Beekeepers Association meets on the **3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** We meet at 752 Main Street, Forest Park, Ga. 30297. Guest are always welcome. For more information, please visit www.tarabeekeepers.org.

In January, we were thrilled to have **Dr. Keith Delaplane** give a presentation on "Bees in nature and what we can learn from them." His lecture reinforced a cornerstone of our club to appreciate and master fundamentals associated with beekeeping. We are going to foster more opportunities to strengthen our understanding of these fundamentals by creating a table at each of our meetings for beekeepers, new or experienced, to share information. This will be in addition to the great line-up of speakers we will have this year.

Our February meeting featured **Paul Berry**, Georgia Master Beekeeper, member to Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers, and is the current GBA treasurer. Paul spoke on swarms. He inspired some of our members to prepare and set out swarm traps in the week after his lecture. Paul also shared (and demonstrated) some great tips and tricks he's acquired over his many years of beekeeping.



Paul Berry recommends that we get our swarm traps in place, now.

Our first **Beekeepers' Corner** was very informative and a lot of fun. Members brought in a wide range of protective clothing and shared what they've learned from trial and error. New beekeepers had many questions and were able to compare and contrast the clothing based on their preferences.



The Beekeepers Corner at the Tara bee club. This month we compared protective clothing and helped newer beekeepers explore the options of what might be best for them.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 19, 2018, at 7 pm**. **Bobby Torbush** of the Coweta Beekeepers Association will be speaking about Hive Management / Reading Frames. Please join us for this presentation & enjoy snacks afterwards when we socialize at our Beekeepers' Corner where we share tips and information.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

The Tri-County Beekeepers

The Tri-County Beekeepers meeting this month will host **Keith Fielder** speaking on **7 Habits of a Highly Effective Beekeeper**. We meet at the Gillesville City Park located at 7864 County Line Road, Gillesville, Georgia.

Tri-County Beekeepers just completed our **3rd annual Fundamentals of Beekeeping Short Course** on Saturday, February 10. With 45 new beekeepers in attendance, the day was a huge success. After listening to presentations from some of Georgia's leading beekeepers, the attendees were in information overload. **Bill Owens**, from Georgia Bee Removal, came by and spoke on Honey Bee Biology and Pests and Diseases of Honey Bees. **Cindy Hodges** from Dunwoody Honey gave a great presentation on A Year in the Bee Yard and our very own **Bobby Chaisson**, Blue Sky Honey and president of Tri-County Beekeepers, spoke on Flowering Plants and Trees in Georgia and on Basic Hive Manipulation. **Harold Lanier**, owner of Lanier Bee Barn taught on Basic Beekeeping Equipment and **Steve Esau** introduced our new beekeepers to Managing Hives for Honey Production and the Basics of Harvesting Honey. We also had several veteran beekeepers give demonstrations on how to light a smoker and several vendors with beekeeping tools, supplies, gifts and products from the hive for sale.



It was a great day with lots of information for new and old beekeepers alike and a great opportunity to teach 45 new individuals about the joy of beekeeping. We would also like to thank those who donated door prizes and as always Tri-County is blessed with members who are always willing to give their time to help make the sort course a success.

Tri-State Beekeepers

Tri-State Beekeepers Association will meet on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 7 pm**. We meet at the UGA AG center, located at 114 Pace Avenue, Trenton Georgia. 30752. We will be talking about making splits and hive inspection, for getting ready for the honey flow.

Troup County Beekeepers

Troup County Beekeepers **meet the 3rd Monday of every month at 7 pm at the Troup county Ag building**. **Steve Page** spoke at our February meeting on making splits. **Paul Berry** will be speaking on swarms **Monday, March 19th**. We have Heard County Art program painting 2 hives for our annual hive painting contest. We will be auctioning both off after the contest.

West Georgia Beekeepers Association

West Georgia Beekeepers Association meets at **6:45 pm, the 4th Monday of each month (except May and Dec)** at the American Legion Hall, 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134. Our March program will feature Bobby Torbush speaking on hive management and reading frames.

Don't forget to write!

We'd like to share your club program information and speakers with other GBA members. If you had sent it in this month, your club's program could be here. Appoint someone in your club to be the media contact person, and have him/her each month send the news, tips, articles and pictures of what is going on in your club, so we can share it with the entire GBA community, and beyond!

Just a couple more...

Cindy and Mike Hodges' Propolis Tincture

We asked Master Craftsman Beekeeper and Past President of MABA, Cindy Hodges for her (and her husband Mike's) **Propolis Tincture**. This was a popular request since giving her presentation at GBA on her research about this highly beneficial bee-made substance.

Cindy writes: **At our house**, Mike uses an 8 ounce medicine bottle that is dark. He puts approximately 5 grams of propolis in there and tops it off with Everclear (95% alcohol). The propolis should be in small pieces to dissolve more easily. (A man at the GBA meeting suggested freezing the propolis and putting it through a coffee grinder – a great idea!)

Mike shakes it a couple of times a day for two weeks. He then pours it through a coffee filter and refrigerates the tincture in the dark bottle. **Light and heat can degrade the potency of the tincture over time, so keep it refrigerated.**

Cindy also notes that, "there are several different recipes on the internet. Gary Reuter, the lab manager for Marla Spivak, has this on his website "Good Information": <http://garybees.cfans.umn.edu/good-information/propolis-tincture>.

Save that propolis!



Leave the weeds for the bees!



Some spring weeds starting to pop up. Bees like getting nectar and pollen from these. *Lamium purpureum* (red purple deadnettle). Right – *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit).



The fragrant blossoms of late January through February blooming (and exotic invasive). Leatherleaf Mahonia are extremely attractive to bees.

Photos by Joe Conti.



Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The license plate bill has passed in the **House: 168-0** and in the **Senate: 51-0!** The vote in the Senate occurred on Wednesday, March 21. Now the bill must be signed by the governor and then the complicated process of getting the manufacturing set up begins. While it may be some time before we can actually drive around with a honey bee license plate on our cars, it was embraced enthusiastically in the Georgia governing bodies. And we jumped for joy when the final vote was cast.

We are thrilled that our organization has spearheaded such a worthwhile effort. Once the manufacturing begins, our beautiful honey bee license plate will be seen on cars all over Georgia.

The GBA Legislative Committee, chaired by **Gail Dean** and **Tim Doherty**, did a stellar job to make this happen. They wooed the legislators with honey and other bee related information. Each lawmaker got a full sized replica of the license plate as well as a miniature plate on the honey jar in the gift bag containing their goodies. And not a single legislator voted against the bill. If you want to get on the list to get an email when the plates are finally available for sale, [click here](#).

In other GBA news, **Jennifer Berry** has gotten us some good speakers for the fall GBA meeting in Forsyth county. We will enjoy learning from [Maryann Frazier](#) (from Penn State), [Izzy Hill](#) (works for the USDA in DC), [Jerry Hayes](#) (a great article about how Hayes joined Monsanto), and [Juliana Rangel](#). If you follow each of the links, you'll learn a little bit about each of our speakers.

Meanwhile, bee season 2018 has begun. My bees are really buzzing and seem happy for the moment. I can make every single mistake in the book, even though I've been doing this since 2006, so I don't feel totally confident that my bees will thrive, but I have my fingers crossed!

Bee well,

Linda T



From the top: Our bee license plate. The 51-0 vote in the State Senate. Tim Doherty and Gail Dean with State Rep. Donahoo who sponsored our bill. The contents of the goody bags.

YOUNG HARRIS 2018

The UGA Honey Bee Program

The UGA Honey Bee Program offers an annual Georgia beekeeping event in cooperation with Young Harris College. This event provides a vast amount of information in the form of lectures, workshops and demonstrations from esteemed local, regional, national and international beekeeping practitioners, authors, and researchers. The event also features hands-on training classes, beekeeping and honey judging certification programs, a distinguished regional honey show, multiple awards programs, and a renowned dinner party, and many other educational opportunities.

Since 1992, the University of Georgia and Young Harris Beekeeping Institute (YHBI) has been the single most comprehensive opportunity in the Southeast for concentrated training in all aspects of practical beekeeping.

Held on the campus of Young Harris College, situated in the heart of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, the Beekeeping Institute is a three-day event with separate curricula for beginners and more experienced beekeepers.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 9th - Friday, May 11th, 2018

Wednesday is dedicated to training and certification examinations for enrolled Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman candidates, as well as the Welsh Honey Judge qualifications; these lectures are not open to the public.

The Institute proper, Thursday and Friday, features a 2-track system: one set of programs is highlighted as pertaining specifically to less-experienced beekeepers; the other for those beekeepers with more experience. However, the format is open and all Institute participants can pick and choose among all of the lectures, workshops and demonstrations offered. Thursday will include an ice cream social and Friday will feature our traditional low country boil along with the presentation of Certified, Journeyman and Master Beekeeper certificates.

Besides offering classes for beekeepers at all levels of experience, the Institute sponsors the Georgia Master Beekeeper Program (GA-MBP) and partners with the Welsh (UK) National Bee Keepers Association to provide one of North America's only two licensing programs for Welsh Honey Judges.



Improved Honey Show featuring Michael Young, MBE, International Welsh Honey Judge

One of the most rewarding opportunities of the Institute is the annual **Honey Show**. Besides categories in honey, the Honey Show includes classes in photography, art, candles, section comb honey, mead, and beekeeping gadgets. We urge students to participate in the Institute Honey Show, even if you've never competed before.

Vendors

In addition to the curricula, the program is enhanced by respected, regional purveyors of beekeeping supplies, and other related paraphernalia. Their attendance offers the convenience of browsing among a wide variety of beekeeping-related resources and gifts without concern over shipping charges.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm	Rossman Apiaries
Walter T. Kelley Beekeeping	Books and More
Beetle Jail	Rock Bridge Trees
OxyVap	The Tri-Bee

For more information and to register, please visit www.ent.uga.edu/bees.



GEORGIA 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST



– by Ben Tallano

Did you know that bees' pollination is responsible for about one third of our food? Bees pollinate ninety percent of our earth's crop species food supply. Just in the United States it is estimated that bees' work of pollination produces \$16 billion worth of food crops.

What would life be like if honey bees didn't exist? Honey bees are responsible for many tasks. Honey bees pollinate plants and flowers. Many cattle used for milk and meat eat mainly alfalfa and lupins, both of which need to be pollinated by bees. In addition, canola oil production, pharmaceuticals, and even clothing made from cotton are dependent on the honey bee. Our world depends on the mighty honey bee for its existence.

The magnificent honey bee survives because it is a superorganism. A superorganism consists of many organisms that function as one organism. A honey bee colony is "a symphony of highly coordinated behaviors all designed to promote the entire hive." Dr. Keith Delaplane, entomologist and professor at the University of Georgia, states that a colony is a superorganism since it behaves as an integrated unit, undergoes a period of growth and reproduction, and possesses "cells" that perform different tasks. Georgia Master Beekeeper Tom Handford states that a superorganism carries out tasks in a multilevel caste system seamlessly from the very start and that each bee works a single function that with need can switch to adapt to other functions as needed by the whole. For example, a worker bee can adapt its function, ranging from housekeeping to scouting

The magnificent honey bee survives because it is a superorganism. A superorganism consists of many organisms that function as one organism.

Colonies require much work and many bees to function. Different bees take different roles in a colony. In a typical honey bee colony, there are about 300 drones, 50,000 workers, 9000 larvae, and one queen. The main role of the queen bee is to lay as many eggs as possible. Drones, the male bees, are responsible for passing the colony's genes on to the next generation by mating with queens from other colonies. Worker bees do the "housekeeping" work

to foraging, depending on the need of the hive. Honey bees can also communicate with each other through pheromones and dances. Honey bee colonies are superorganisms because they work together to survive, and without one another, the entire colony would collapse.

of the colony. Removing waste from cells, feeding the larvae, building honeycombs, removing dead bees, and carrying water to the hive are many duties that worker bees perform. When workers stop working for the colony and switch to egg-laying, the colony quickly deteriorates. The colony is dependent on each bee doing the task it is designed to perform.



Ben Tallano, 14, of Hart County is this year's winner of our Georgia 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest.

Thermoregulation is an example of how a honey bee colony functions as a superorganism. Individual bees are cold blooded and cannot thermoregulate themselves. According to Steve Nofs, a honey bee colony acts like a warm-blooded organism because it keeps the brood area of the nest at around 93 degrees Fahrenheit even when outside temperatures go above 100 degrees or way below zero. When the interior of the hive rises above 93 degrees, worker bees cool the interior by fanning air over droplets of water. When the temperature dips below 93 degrees, worker bees come together around the brood area and vibrate their wing muscles to produce heat. Bees maintaining the perfect temperature in the hive is an example of how the honey bee is a superorganism. Without the bees regulating temperature, they would all die.

Another great example of honey bees working as a superorganism is swarming. Swarming occurs when the colony gets too large and needs to split. Swarming must start during the early summer since much work needs to be completed before the following winter. A new swarm will need to find a suitable place for nesting, occupy it, construct combs, raise new workers, and store enough supplies to last through winter. When starting a new swarm, the queen bee rearing begins, and the mother queen lays the eggs for the future queen bee. The eggs are laid in queen cups which are constructed by worker bees. The daughter queens grow rapidly, and the mother queen eats less and less while the worker bees eat more. During swarming, many workers become dormant and hang on the combs which is a sign that swarming is imminent. The scout bees working inside and outside of the hive are the ones that begin swarming. When

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GEORGIA 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST



– (CONT'D)

the scout bees notice the developing queens reach the pupal stage and that there is sunny weather, they vibrate their flight muscles which sends out a signal that the swarm is about to depart. When the scout bees fly in excitement around the hive, it's time to depart. The bees cluster together and follow the scout bees out of the hive. After several hours to days, the scout bees democratically decide the location of their new home and lead the swarm there. Back at the original nest, a few thousand worker bees, a few queen cells, and food remain. After a few days, the new queen will emerge and the colony's population will rebound and build up. Swarming is an important part of survival for honey bees, and it illustrates how honey bees act as a superorganism because they all have individual jobs that together act as a single organism. The colony communicates effectively and acts democratically when making decisions that affect the entire hive.

Not only is our community dependent on the honey bee for our food, but the honey bee colony can teach our community how to work together and communicate with

each other effectively. The honey bee teaches our world that every individual's designated work is important, but that just like in a honey bee colony, each individual's survival is dependent on the others. Also, the superorganism honey bee colony depicts the phrase "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." The cooperative behavior experienced both in our world and in the honey bee colony determines the survival of us all.

Every year GBA sponsors the awards to the winners of the Georgia 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest. This year the winners were:

1st place (\$250): Ben Tellano, Hart County

2nd place (\$100): Kelly Lachowsky, Liberty County

3rd place (\$50): Israel Farrow, Cobb County

Ben Tallano, is 14 and in the ninth grade. He has participated in 4-H for six years. He is very interested in honey safety and has won first place for his district project achievement topic of Food Safety and Preservation for two years.

APIS M. ESOTERIA 4 FAT BEES

– by Glen Henderson, Mountain Beekeepers

The most important objective of beekeeping is to have "fat and happy" honey bees. This is very hard to recognize. You must be able to tell the difference between "happy and sassy" and "fat and happy". "Fat and sassy bees don't quite make it. "Fat and happy" bees are healthy. Anxious or stressed bees catch illnesses easily, the same as humans. Observe, observe, observe! In the hive you will see abnormal behavior more easily. There are no pictures on the web that show this. You must be observant. You must recognize normal patterns and activities. The "abnormal" will then jump out at you. The bees will talk to you.

Once the bees are installed in the hive your main management objective is to keep the bees healthy.

Hive location is important as it supports warmth and dryness inside the hive. This will reduce moisture build up, hindering bacterial and fungal pathogens. Morning sunlight is the best.

Warmth will aid in early brood building at the appropriate time in the spring.

In-hive temperature regulation can be aided by having strategically located shade in the afternoon.

Proximity to a water source (natural or manmade) will aid in the hive's thermal regulation and honey processing for bee food.

Managing the numerous pests and pathogens (each with its own technique) will increase the health and strength of the bees.

Managing the varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) is your number one goal. The mite will weaken the bees allowing other pathogens to further weaken or kill the bees.

Tracheal mites can restrict the bees breathing. This will weaken the bees by not allowing enough oxygen to be absorbed during strenuous activity. Eventually the mite bodies and scar tissue in the trachea tubes will strangle the bees.

Bacterial and fungal pathogens are generally manageable using "Best Practices" for beekeeping. There are medications available that work well as needed.

Managing Stress is important as stress weakens the bees. Anything we can do to reduce stress from external forces will help the bees.

Fat bees come from ingesting the correct pollen that is loaded with lipid fats. All pollens are not equal.

An unexpected Use for Beeswax



– by **Linda Tillman**
GBA President

Because of a chance phone call, I learned about a use for beeswax that was new to me.

I got a call from the chief therapist in Radiation Oncology at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA. She was looking for clean beeswax in a large quantity. She told me she needed ten to twenty pounds. I gave her the email addresses for about five GBA beekeepers in the area around Albany and encouraged her to contact them.

“But what are you going to do with the wax?” I asked. When they treat skin cancers with radiation at her hospital, the x-rays go deep and most skin cancers need treatment at the skin’s surface. Beeswax has a quality that keeps the x-rays where the doctors want them to go. They mold the beeswax to fit the patient. She sent me the two photos to the right. The one on the upper right is beeswax wrapped in plastic wrap before being molded. The one on the lower right has been molded to the patient’s body.



Beeswax wrapped in plastic wrap before being molded.

I was very curious and “googled” beeswax used in skin cancer treatment and found the following on a [physician’s website in Springfield, Massachusetts](#):



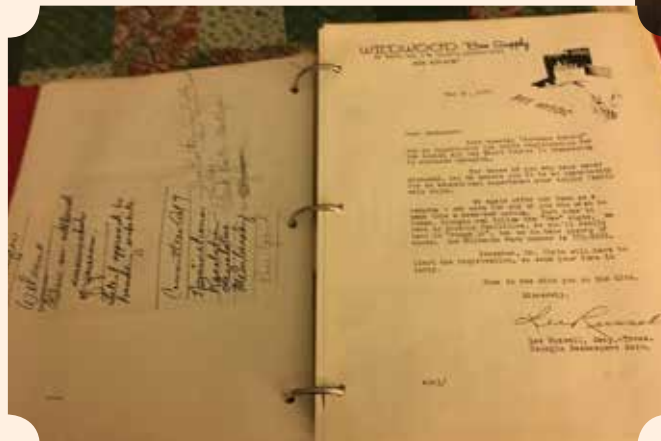
Beeswax that has been molded to the patient’s body.

One of the wonderful properties of beeswax is that it is “tissue equivalent,” meaning that radiation behaves in beeswax the same way it would in human tissue (paraffin wax on the other hand, being petroleum based, is much less tissue equivalent). Because beeswax can be heated and softened, it is used in radiation therapy as a “bolus” material. By filling certain deficits in a patient’s skin contour with beeswax bolus we “trick” the radiation into delivering a more uniform dose at a specific depth inside the body. Basically we change the shape of the patient with the beeswax in a small area to make the radiation do what we want it to do.

When we receive a shipment of beeswax it must be totally melted and strained to get it as pure and clean as possible. Once some has been used, it is saved, heated, and combined with other beeswax for another patient. If bees only knew just how helpful they are to us!

FROM THE PAGES OF GBA HISTORY

GBA is approaching our **100th birthday in 2020**. Out of the blue we received two boxes from **Cecil Shepherd**. Cecil was the secretary of GBA many years ago and now lives in Abingdon, VA. He had in his possession and mailed to us the GBA seal in the photo on the far right (which we can now use on new club certificates!) and a box of old notebooks of minutes, resolutions and correspondence from years ago. The photo directly on the right is a random page from the 70s out of one of the notebooks. Thank you, Cecil (and **Virginia Webb** who is chairing the 2020 Celebration Committee was so very excited!)





KEEPING THE ENERGY HIGH IN YOUR CLUB

What fuels the forward movement of a bee club is energy and enthusiasm. But it is an ongoing challenge for a president and the officers to keep that energy up.

Fran Lane, who with her husband **Buster**, belongs to seven different bee clubs, thinks that communication is the key to a bee club's energy. Some of the best bee clubs in the state have **monthly newsletters** and **good communication** with the members.

An **open discussion time** before the meeting, like Coweta and MABA have as well as others, serves as a way to keep new members involved because members have an opportunity to ask questions and have them answered. TARA has snacks and discussion at the end of the meeting which provides a place for people to interact, enjoy each other, and share about the bees.

Having a **raffle** with good prizes at each meeting keeps up the anticipation and the energy. The tickets don't have to be expensive and many times a club can get the members to donate items for the raffle.

Bobby Chaisson, president of Tri County Beekeepers, says having lots of **opportunity for people to be involved** makes all the difference. We are developing a volunteer form for the GBA page and individual clubs have ways to indicate your interest in volunteering as well. However, Bobby points out, you have to have places and ways to plug in those volunteers. Being asked to contribute to an organization really energizes your investment, especially if you are offered a way to get involved. People are often complimented and glad to be asked to take on a responsibility.

Lake Hartwell, under the leadership of **Kathy Bourn**, has held several field trips. They might go to a member's bee yard or to **Bob Binnie's** Lakemont facility. The activity puts club members together in conversational ways that might not happen at meetings. And once a quarter, instead of a speaker, they have a **round table discussion** with lots of enthusiastic participation.

Kelley Campbell, who also belongs to multiple clubs, thinks that notes of appreciation and positive feedback are really important and really matter in people's investment. It doesn't matter if it comes by snail mail, is a shout out on Facebook, or is an email snippet – **saying thank you** makes all the difference in people's continuing investment.

Bobby Chaisson also emphasized the importance of appreciating the contribution of the membership. His club has a **cookout** - a simple hot dog and hamburger event – as a way of supporting the members and making them feel appreciated.

Katie Goodman, president of NE GA Mountain Beekeepers, says that energy is infectious and to keep energy in your club, a key element is to **be energetic** yourself!

Mary Lou Blohm of Gilmer County doesn't rely on asking people to volunteer to keep her club energized. Some of the things they have done include spending the first five months of 2018 using meetings to study and prepare for the certified beekeeping exam. This has brought high levels of attendance to her club. They also think about **COMMUNITY** and have **teams** which divide up the responsibilities for the club's apiary. Each team member serves on the team for a year. Also they encourage participation in smaller ways, like having club members present 15 minute **"short programs"** on how to install a hive beetle trap, how to make a propolis tincture, how to build a frame. Members who do these short programs get to pick an item from the raffle table as a thank you!

So thanks to all who suggested good ways to build energy and good luck with keeping the energy going in your club.

If you have topics that would help your club, [let me know](#) or let your director know.

– **Linda Tillman**
GBA President

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.

IN MEMORIAM: DURANT WARWICK

DuRant Warwick was an active member of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association for many years and was **GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2004**. His daughter Anita reached out to MABA President Julia Mahood to let us know that her father passed on March 17.

This is her message to us:

“I am DuRant Warwick’s oldest daughter, Anita Warwick Whigham. My Dad was named Beekeeper of the Year 2004. He passed away on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2018. **DuRant was 95 and 3/4 years old**. He did live a good long life. We are having a **memorial service** for him at Covenant



DuRant Warwick
July 19, 1922 – March 17, 2018
Member of MABA and
Beekeeper of the Year, 2004.

Presbyterian Church, 2881 Canton Rd., Marietta, GA 30066 on **April 14th at 2:00 pm**. His write-up can be seen at this site: www.mariettafuneralhome.org. Please pass this information on to the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. Dad enjoyed his bees. He said that when he was in college at the University of Tennessee, his college adviser was trying to talk him out of taking Bee Keeping as an elective class. Dad didn’t listen to him and took the class. DuRant so enjoyed beekeeping as a hobby after he retired. **Dad said that the Bee Keeping Class was the best class he took at college.**

Many blessings, Anita”

Queen colors

Each year we mark our queens with a different color to show at a glance the year the queen was born. We all know younger queens produce better. But what is the color this year?

Here is a picture of the marking pen we use, and a chart showing the five colors used in rotation. For instance, all years ending in 3 or 8 (ie: 2013, **2018**, 2023...) will be **red**.

You’re welcome!



QUEEN BEE YEAR CODES

IF YEAR ENDS IN:

- 1 OR 6 = WHITE
- 2 OR 7 = YELLOW
- 3 OR 8 = RED
- 4 OR 9 = GREEN
- 5 OR 0 = BLUE



The queen bee in this image is marked with a red dot. Image courtesy Pixabay, honeybeesuite.com (blog).





IT'S SWARM SEASON!



Russian Scion Swarm Trap

by Bobby Thanepohn

Tired of climbing trees to recover swarms? Ever have a swarm get just too far out of reach? Swarms ignoring bait hives? Try a **Russian Scion**!

Russian Scions work under the same principle as bait hives but rather than supplying what scout bees think will be a permanent home, you supply swarming bees with a bivouac location (a gathering point). Since swarms typically gather somewhere near the parent hive before eventually setting off for a new-found home, a Russian Scion may prove to be an attractive spot for swarms to wait out the scout bees.



A scion can be attached to a pole or hung from a tree above and not too far from the front of your hives. Larger bee yards may need more than one.

A scion is just a simple roof about a foot square to provide a bit of shelter with a post under it covered with a lure. The lure can be burlap or cloth brushed with propolis tincture and then stapled to the post, a couple old frames, or in my case, the cloths I use to filter slungum and wax. The bait may also be made more enticing with a bit of lemongrass essential oil.

One in your apiary may prove to be a convenient place for any of your issuing swarms to go to and in turn, be easily seen and reached by you, the beekeeper.

These, likely would be better put to use by those of you that frequently visit your apiaries or have your hives within sight of your homes as these are only meant to be a temporary stopping point and all swarms eventually leave for a new, permanent home.

Underside: Rags coated with slungum, wax, and Propolis.

For more info (and where I got this crazy idea) go to: <https://sassafra-beefarm.com/2017/01/20/the-russian-scion/>

Hitching a Ride



From: Walton County Beekeepers Association member **Peggy Brown** captured on March 14th.



CLUB NEWS

Thank you to all those volunteering to make the Club Meetings form much better, easier to read and user friendly. While it is still under construction, it will reappear next month.

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia – Jasper, GA

Appalachian Beekeepers of Georgia will hold the Monthly Meeting on **Thursday, April 12, at 7:00 pm.** located at Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA. The speaker will be **Linda Tillman**, GBA President and Master Beekeeper, speaking on *Let your bees go Naked: How to use Foundationless Frames.*

Everyone is invited to visit with us to enjoy the offerings Linda will share.

“Field Day”

We had a great crowd for our hands-on event on **March 10** at Dancing Meadows Farm. Our new beekeepers, including those that attended our beginner beekeeping class in February, were eager to work with live bees.

The weather did its usual thing and started raining five minutes after we started. Regardless, not deterred by the rain and with the help of **Sammy Hause, Matt Kinzer** and myself, **Bill Norris**, we were able to demonstrate a package installation, proper smoker lighting, hive evaluation, oxalic acid vaporization simulation, various methods of and whys of splitting and a tip on how to stimulate queen cell production.

Everyone seemed to really appreciate the information and had lots of questions in preparation for receiving their first package of bees, whenever that will be.



Augusta Beekeepers Association

Teaching a New Generation to Smoke

When is smoke-filled air and children a good combination? When new beekeepers are being formed!



The **Augusta Beekeeping Association** and **Phinizy Swamp Nature Park** kicked off their new partnership with the association's inaugural **Junior Beekeeping Club** meeting.



Ten families gathered to catch a glimpse of the beekeeping fun. Those attending ranged from families that were considering bees to those whose packages were on the way. ABA members led discussions, opened and examined a hive that recently absconded, and let everyone help light smokers.

The ABA is reviving three hives at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, including one observation hive located in the visitor's center. The park is hosting the monthly Junior Beekeeper Club meetings. Together we are utilizing each organization's strengths to connect with a new generation of naturalists.

Augusta Beekeeping Association. Connect with us at:

Email: augustabeekeeping@gmail.com

Facebook: [augustabeekeeping](https://www.facebook.com/augustabeekeeping)

Facebook: [A.B.A.Junior.Beekeeping](https://www.facebook.com/A.B.A.Junior.Beekeeping)

Twitter: [@AugustaBeeks](https://twitter.com/AugustaBeeks)

Instagram: [augustabeekeeping](https://www.instagram.com/augustabeekeeping)

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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett

We were honored to have **Keith Fielder** speak at our March meeting to share with us “*Seven Things Successful Beekeepers Have in Common*”. It was a stimulating discussion and gave everyone ideas of how to improve their beekeeping skills. We always enjoy having Keith visit our club and share his wisdom.

This week we completed our **3rd annual Bee School**. Turn-out was more than expected and we had very excited students. The interest in beekeeping in our area is at an all-time peak and our club continues to grow. We had exceptional participation from the beekeeping suppliers for our door prizes. The two grand prizes were two nucs provided by the **Blue Ridge Honey Company** and the **Flippin Bee Company**.



Next month we will have **Jennifer Berry** as our speaker sharing an update on UGA’s research regarding “Oxalic Acid Extended Release Shop Towels”. We are all anxious to hear good news about ways to help eliminate the pesky Varroa! This should be a great topic and we are excited to have Jennifer share her research.

Our meetings are at **7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month** at the Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula.

Sales for nucs are still going well with payment due to the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett by April 10th. Pick up with be on April 21st. The cost is \$165 or \$150 for members. Please get your orders in early so Flippin Bees will have a better count for what to have available.

Get ready for the cold spell and hope that the buds and flowers don’t freeze again this year like they did last year. So far our bees have been treated with an outstanding spring and are going crazy trying to bring in as much pollen and nectar as their little bodies can carry.

Beekeepers of Gilmer County (BGC)

We meet at **7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of every month**, at the Gilmer County Recreational Center, Old Hwy 5, Ellijay, Ga.

Our upcoming meeting include:

FEB. - MAY 2018 – Monthly meetings have been designed to prepare BGC members to take the Beekeeper Certification Exam. For new beekeepers, this study program will assist them in properly caring for and managing their bees.

JUNE 11th – speaker to appear: **Steven Page**, speaking on “*Raising Queens and Splitting*”

JULY 9th – **Bob Grant** will hold an open discussion of summer hive management

BGC – Operates their own apiary in Ellijay. We have 3 teams that manage the apiary and our monthly meetings often include visits to the apiary for education.

Coastal Area Beekeeper Association (CEBA)

Cynthia Clavey caught this amazing photo of a honey bee visiting Eastern Red Bud blossoms.



Rob Potts went to great heights – literally – to get this swarm off the side of a building in historic downtown Savannah. (*Below, left.*)

With a little help from CEBA president **Greg Stewart**, **Kristine Beeco** caught her first swarm – an easy removal from the side of a one-story garage. (*Below, right.*)



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

The **Certified Beekeepers Exam** is being offered in **Cumming** for Forsyth Club Members on **May 5, 2018**.

If you are interested in taking this exam, please contact **Kelley Campbell** at kellygirl@hotmail.com with:

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 5th**, and will pay the required nonrefundable fee of approximately **\$45**. (This is for UGA, not the club.)
3. Your complete name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.

(Club dues are \$20 for the calendar year.)

The **Forsyth Beekeepers Club's 21st annual Bee School** was **March 3, 2018**. The classroom session had local certified beekeeper speakers, covering all topics first-year beekeepers need to know to be successful with their new colonies. Multiple break sessions between presentations allowed a more details Q&A time with speakers and mentors, as well as opportunities to explore how to put together frames, and how to apply wax to foundation. Breaks also encouraged new members to check out library books, and introduced keepers to different methods of obtaining bees. Students met mentors in their immediate area and had a chance to discuss any upcoming purchases, fears, or questions they had throughout the day. Some students came as 1st year, completely green keepers, others came to freshen up their understandings...or *misunderstandings*, and a few just came for the cupcakes.



The **second session** of this school is **April 21**. It's hands-on, hive side and welcomes anyone who wants to come. There will be an 'extension group' for the class to allow those who are more experienced to dig a little deeper into reading the combs for signs of a problem, and how to correct those concerns along the way. If interested, please [sign up here](#), or visit the Forsyth Beekeepers Club website or Facebook page events so that you are kept up to date with the planning, and receive emailed directions to the field location.

Future classes include **Queen Rearing** in **May** and **Disease & Disorder Day** in **July**. Follow us on Facebook to keep up with them.

Heart of Georgia Beekeeping

There was a great turnout for the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association's annual **Beekeeping 101 class**. 34 attended and the weather held so the attendees experienced some apiary time.

On **March 20** at our monthly meeting, the speaker was **Bob Binnie**. He gave an informational talk on how he got started in the beekeeping business as well as nuc preparation. There were over 50 members and visitors present. The expected timeline for the **nucs delivery is April 17**.

Lake Country Beekeepers

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, April 19th, 6:30-8:00 pm** at the **Hancock County Library**, 8984 E. Broad Street, Sparta, GA. Our speaker will be **Dr. Stacy Roberts** of Bee Faithful Farms, speaking on Products from the hive and their allergy and health benefits.

Lake Country Beekeepers Association hosted an Open House for all club members on **Saturday, March 24th**, at Morgan Apiaries (www.morganhoney.com) in Sparta, GA.

Anne Frey, a Master Beekeeper from Delanson, NY, demonstrated a fool proof way to light and keep a smoker lit, plus shared tips on what to look for inside a hive. This is our second year to have Anne meet with our club and we appreciate her patience with our many questions in and out of the hives. Our experienced club members: **Drew Davidson** performed an oxalic acid vaporizer treatment on a dummy hive, and **Daniel Douglass** showed many others his hive inspection techniques. The 40 beekeepers who attended chatted with experienced and new beekeepers, browsed **Bruce Morgan's** beekeeping supply store and shop, and were treated to a grilled hot dog and hamburger lunch. It was a wonderful morning to learn more about our bees with and through other beekeepers.



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

On every beekeeping calendar it says winter is the time for learning. That's why January to March are filled with short courses and bee schools for the new beekeeper.

On **February 24th** the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association dove right in with the **club's first short course**. It only took four months of planning, gathering great speakers, cajoling for donations and spreading the word by club members to create a very successful course. It brought 60 potential beekeepers into the world of the honey bee.

Attendees took in 8 classes, demonstrations, access to vendors, lunch with a beekeeper, great door prizes, future hive inspections and a full information folder.

The teachers are the best of the beekeeping bunch that include **Kerry Owen, Linda Tillman, Cory Moman, Bobby Chaisson, Cyndi Ball, Dave Miller, Ray Civitts** and **Randall Kerlin**.



Gift bags contained the book *"First Lessons in Beekeeping"*, a hive tool, honey, National Honey Board pamphlets and a copy of *Bee Culture's "BEEKeeping Your First 3 Years"*.

Now all that's left to do is figure out how to top it next year.

Kathleen Bourn
President, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.

Our meetings are now at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church (PRUMC) in Buckhead, **3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm**. (Mentoring begins at 6:30 pm, prior to the meetings.) On **Tuesday, April 17th**, our speaker will be **Lewis Bartlett**.

MABA offers Certified Testing on May 5, 2018

If you've been keeping bees for at least one year, you can take the Certified Beekeeper test in Atlanta on May 5, 2018.

You no longer are required to attend the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in order to take the test for the Certified Beekeeper, the 1st level in the **UGA Master Beekeeper program**.

Why take the Certified test?

- Ensure that you know the basics to be a capable beekeeper. The text for this test is the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith Delaplane. It covers a range of beekeeping knowledge that will equip you to handle questions that could come up in your beekeeping practice. With this knowledge, you'll be a more confident beekeeper.
- Bragging rights: tell the world that you are **Certified!**

Follow this [link to register for the MABA testing](#).

Follow this [link for information about the UGA Master Beekeeping Program](#).

Junior Beekeeper Program

On Saturday, **March 21st**, we held our 1st session of the year at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Buckhead. We had 14 children and their parents attend. It was a beautiful day to teach them all about bees. **Ed Hoehn, Julia Mahood, Daniel Goodridge** and **Holly Bayendor** volunteered for the program.



Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Assoc.

Our club meets on the **2nd Thursday of the month** in the Habersham Agricultural building located at 555 Monroe Street, Clarkesville, GA, at **6:30 pm**. Dues are \$20 year for a family membership.

For more information: www.negabeekeeping.com.

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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Northwest Georgia Beekeepers

We meet on the **2nd Monday of each month**. This month we had the honor to have **Sophia Price** as our speaker and in April we will have **Ann Brown** from the Wild Ones, speaking on native bees and habitats. We are seeing many drones cast out of the hive and laying dead on the ground. I believe that because of the warm weather in February the queen laid eggs thinking it was warm enough and now with the cold snap they have harvested the drones from their cells to preserve the honey they have left. One of my hives has over 30 dead drones in front of it. This is my strongest hive.

We are also preparing for the **LaFayette Honeybee Festival** that will be held on **June 2nd**. We are reaching out to every beekeepers association to attend and help educate the public on the importance of honeybees and pollinators.

We are still in need of people selling honey or any other item produced by the honeybee. If you are interested in having a booth to sell your items you can go to myhoneybeefestival.com to download an application form. Last year we had over 20,000 people from many different states attend. We will have an educational tent as well as a honey show. The following classes will be judged:

Class 1: Extracted Honey: a-Light, b-Amber, c-Dark

Class 2: Black Jar

Class 3: Beeswax Candles Molded Ornamental

Class 4: Honey Confections

Class 5: Artwork Related to Beekeeping (Adult - Youth)

Class 6: Poetry Related to Beekeeping (Adult - Youth)

Class 7: Crafts Related to Beekeeping

Class 8: Needlecraft Related to Beekeeping

Class 9: Photographs Related to Beekeeping

If you have any questions you can contact at

lioness12162001@yahoo.com

Oglethorpe Beekeepers Association

On **Monday, March 19th**, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club had an informal discussion on spring beekeeping issues, then raffled off various used club hive equipment. At our next meeting on **April 16th**, **Joe Conti** will give a powerpoint presentation on splitting hives.

Tri-State Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 20th at 7 pm, at the Dade County Ag Center, located at 114 Pace Drive, Trenton, GA 30752, our club president **Derick Forester** spoke about treating for mites with heat.

West Georgia Beekeepers Association

West Georgia Beekeepers Association will hold its next meeting on **April 23, 2018**. **Steve Page** will be the guest speaker on making splits and queen rearing.

Send it in!

Thank YOU to everyone who sent club news, information and photos for this month's issue. We always want to share your club's program information and speakers with other GBA members. Ask someone in your club to be the media contact person, and have him or her send the news, tips, articles and pictures of what's going on in your club.

We really appreciate hearing from you!

sincerely,
Rick and Holly
Newsletter Editors



gbanewsletters@gmail.com





Spilling *The* Honey

MAY 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I first was elected president of this great GBA beekeeping organization, I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to accomplish. Over the first year, I realized that what I wanted to do was to make the organization all about connecting beekeepers all over the state through more than just the two annual meetings.

In that effort, we have revised the bylaws, introducing a much more active role for the Directors on the GBA Board. Most clubs and/or club presidents now have regular contacts with their Director. We are trying to connect regional clubs with each other and to promote interaction between the clubs and with GBA members. This is a learn-as-we-go process and will get better and better over

time as we get more effective and efficient with how best to use the resource of having Directors assigned to specific clubs.

Another part of the bylaws revision that will connect more beekeepers is how we have changed the way the ***Beekeeper of the Year*** for GBA is selected. Now the selection committee will be four members of GBA assigned each year, one from each quadrant of the state. Clubs will have a more powerful voice in nominating outstanding beekeepers from their area and the choice will include a broader look at beekeepers from across the state. The Directors will again be involved in encouraging each club to think of nominating one of their members for this honor.

The use of our ***Buzz Fund*** has needed a much broader definition than simply funding research at the UGA bee lab. Under the direction of our strong Buzz Fund Committee, chaired by **Gina Gallucci** and currently including **Bill Owens** and **Rose Anne Dorn**, awards have been made to deserving clubs and individuals. At the spring meeting Clint Ready gave us a slide-show of the pollinator garden planted at his campus at Middle Georgia for the training of beekeepers and the education of the university community; **Tim Doherty**, founder of ***Doc's Healing Hives***, has worked toward an effort to rehabilitate veterans in their transition away from the armed forces through beekeeping; **Tri County** has created an ***educational apiary*** at the Gillsville County Park for the education of both the public and beekeepers. These are just three examples of how the Buzz Fund is being used to connect beekeepers.

The prison program, initiated by **Bear Kelley**, past GBA President, has to this point been driven by several hard-working volunteers: **Rick Moore**, **Brutz English** and **Julia Mahood**. There have been other active helpers like **Virginia Webb**. However, I would like to have teams of beekeepers assigned to the prison program. **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, one of the founders of the ***Young Harris Beekeeping Institute***, has given the stamp of approval to allow work at the prison beekeeping programs to count toward public service credits for Journeyman or the Master Beekeeper/Master Craftsman Beekeeper levels of accreditation.

To keep energy up and avoid burnout on these very worthwhile programs, we need people who are interested and willing to give a little time. If you would like to be a part of the prison teaching program, contact [Rick](#), [Brutz](#), or [Julia](#). I can speak from personal experience and say that it is a fascinating and eye-opening experience to teach in the prison program and I encourage you to give it a try. If you are part of a team, you could choose how often you'd like to go to the prison and teach.

Katie Goodman is chairing the GBA Facebook committee. She has been doing a great job of adding items to our Facebook page. If you have items of interest or tidbits about your club, write [Katie](#) to get them added to our Facebook page.

Our Junior Beekeeping program is expanding. **Kelley Campbell** is chairing this committee and if you would like to talk to her about funds for your local club, [please contact her](#). To see an inspiring example of how a junior beekeeping program might look, click here to see the recent [first Junior Beekeeping class](#) held by the **Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers**.

We are trying very hard to get the local clubs to share their information about meetings, courses, etc. with the newsletter. Recently the **Gwinnett club** invited their members to participate in the ***Hands-on Beekeeping day*** organized by **Forsyth**. At Appalachian's April meeting, they discussed some things they had learned from Gilmer County. At **MABA**, **Forsyth's Hands-On Day** and **Tri County's Varroa Field Day** were highlighted. Those interactions are great ways to develop cross-club pollination and will be terrific for GBA connections. Look at the GBA map and see what bee clubs are near you. Visit another club; hear their program; see how they manage their meetings.

If you have ideas about how GBA can work to connect beekeepers throughout the state, [please share them with me](#).

Bee Well,

Linda T

USING THE BUZZ FUND:

Tri County holds Ribbon Cutting and Hot Dog Roast for new Apiary

– by Bobby Chaisson and Linda Tillman

Tri County Beekeepers (President, Bobby Chaisson), determined to create public awareness of the honey bee and to promote education of new beekeepers, applied for a **Buzz Fund grant** to build a teaching apiary. They also received equipment and bees donated by Georgia Bee Removal, equipment donated by **Lanier Bee Barn** as well as a Flow hive donated by the flow hive company through their club support program.

GBA awarded the club a \$1500 grant and they put it to good use. Here is the new apiary:



The enclosure includes educational signs and each hive is labeled and on a sturdy hive stand.

To commemorate the opening of the Tri County Apiary, Bobby had an official ribbon cutting, including the **mayor of Gillsville, Roy Turpin**; city councilmen of Gillsville, **Wade Dale** (who is also the Tri County Vice President) and **Larry Poole**; the president of GBA, **Linda Tillman**; **State Representative, Emory Donahoo**; **Harold Lanier**, owner of Lanier Bee Barn; and members of the Tri County club. Everyone stood in front of the new apiary and cut a giant ribbon on the count of three. The apiary was officially opened!

“This is an excellent opportunity to not only educate the public about the honeybee, but it’s also a great resource for the education of members of our club,” said Bobby.

Bobby and his club have bees installed in some of the hives already and, to underline the work and function of the apiary, during the event bees were installed in the new top bar hive.

This new apiary will be used for both teaching and passive educating (people will learn from standing outside the fence, looking at the bees, and reading the signs). Visitors to the park will be able to get an up-close view of the bees hard at work.

We at GBA are so glad that people and bee clubs are thinking of great ways to employ GBA’s assistance through the Buzz Fund and hope to hear more from the Tri County Club as they use the apiary for more and more public education about the honey bee.



DOC'S HEALING HIVES' *First Short Course*

On Saturday, April 14, *Doc's Healing Hives* conducted its first veteran beekeeping short course. Introducing veterans to the art and science of beekeeping helps veterans to heal and reintegrate into their communities. Participating in the program were twenty veterans and their spouses – nineteen men and seven women in all. The participants came from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. This short course was a culmination of over a year's efforts supported by many different organizations.



Tim Doherty (pictured above, right, wearing a black shirt) founded *Doc's Healing Hives* because beekeeping and beekeepers had played such a large role in his own healing after returning from his deployment in Afghanistan as the the Deputy Surgeon for NATO Special Operations Component Command. He knew how much beekeeping had helped him heal and he wanted to give a similar experience to other veterans. He applied to GBA for a Buzz Fund grant for seed money to set up *Doc's Apiary*.

The course was an enjoyable mix of lecture inside and hands-on outside where **Brutz English** demonstrated how to light a smoker and **Linda Tillman** inspected a hive for the group.

Inside, the lectures flowed smoothly with **Teri Meyer** speaking on the equipment needed to begin beekeeping; Linda Tillman talking about the year in the apiary; **Butch Shelton** discussing bee diseases; **Kelley Campbell** teaching common mistakes beginners make and swarm catching. Brutz taught nutrition and plants for bees, and Teri closed it all with how to install a nuc and how to harvest honey.

Some of the presenters also had military connections. For example, Teri's son is on his second deployment with the Marines and her future son-in-law is also in the military as are other family members. Butch is in the National Guard.



Each veteran received a smoker, hive tool, boardman feeder, Maximillian Sunflower seeds, Hancock's Bee Feed seed, Buckwheat seed and an Eastern Wildflower pollinator mix. They also received a copy of [First Lessons in Beekeeping](#), the *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture*.

In addition each veteran was given either an eight or ten frame hive; some were assembled some were not. *Doc's* spent a year collecting, purchasing and painting equipment from different donors from places as far away as Michigan. Two of the hives were won at hive raffles at GBA conferences.

(continued on next page)

DOC'S HEALING HIVES' *First Short Course* – (CONT'D)

The individuals listed below donated components or a complete hive or honey bees: Joy and Joe Harvey, Buster's Bees, Didley's Woodwares, Flippin Bee Company, Georgia Bee Removal, Service Bee Company, Jay Parsons, Lou Lobe, Shelli Godfrey, Kelley Campbell, Charlie Doherty and Gina Gallucci.

Doc's has received incredible support from GBA, MABA, FBA, Tri-county and Potato Creek Beekeepers associations.

In the course application, Doc's asked each applicant to commit to joining a local bee club, to join the state association, and to participate in a bee conference. Doc's looks forward to seeing all of the first course graduates attending GBA's Fall conference and becoming certified beekeepers.

All of this was supported by donations. If you would like to support this effort, tax-deductible donations can be made via [Doc's Facebook page](#) or by sending a check to Doc's Healing Hives, 1155 Mt. Vernon Hwy NE, Suite 800, Dunwoody GA 30338.



Beekeeping with children

– by Pam Allen

Raising kids and keeping bees are alike in many ways. Both require you to be constantly planning ahead; can cause you to be mystified, perplexed and excited all in the same day, and go back and forth between needing constant attention and a hands-off approach.

For my family, keeping bees was a casual conversation for years until we had our second child and took the opportunity to jump into this hobby while I was at home daily with the little one. Our oldest child was six and actually stepped into a suit and worked a hive before both of us! She participated in the **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Junior Beekeeper Program** early in the spring before our first hives had arrived and was so excited about the entire hobby after getting to experience the bees and processing honey with the MABA members. I highly recommend taking kids to a local apiary or taking a Junior Keepers course if you are nervous about how they will react to having beehives on your property. We took **Bee School** with **Forsyth** and installed our first nucs in 2016. Our hives are about 15 feet out our front door off to the side of the yard. The entire family can watch the bees from the window and I think this helps with being comfortable that the bees are not interested in bothering any of us as we play in the yard.

As our apiary has grown, we have taught our children, even the toddler, to respect the bees and their area. Teaching kids to make a wide circle to the side of the hives and walk up to them from the back keeps the foragers from bumping into their hair or buzzing by their ears. We set up camping chairs off to the side so that if they do want to watch us during inspections, they have a safe spot to stick to. When our oldest works alongside us in the yard, she enjoys taking pictures of the frames, using the smoker, and looking for eggs. Has she been stung while working in the hives? Yes. It was as dramatic as you can imagine with a red-headed girly girl! She was gun shy for months but we slowly re-introduced her to the process and she is back working alongside us. If you ask her though, she prefers making \$3 in ice cream cash watching her little sister while we do inspections.

Kids are naturally curious. I found that there is an interesting balance between their desire to get just a touch too close to busy hives and wanting nothing to do with them. Offering your children activities related to the hives, be it painting the boxes or helping process the honey, keeps this hobby a positive one for them.



NEW BEEKEEPING PROGRAM



for SOWEGA Beekeepers

FOR years now, the **SOWEGA Beekeepers Club** in Albany has kept a bee yard. Like most clubs, we maintained the hives, held open hive days and produced some honey. As probably happens in most clubs, the task of maintaining the hives ended up on the shoulders of a dedicated few. It was not enjoyable for those few and the “newbies” were not learning anything from the club hives.

After our **Bee School** in March, we split six hives into fifteen. That same weekend, a former member donated two large overstuffed hives which had to be split. We ended up with six more hives. Twenty-one hives are way too many to be maintained for just “Show and Tell” so we acted on an idea we had been toying with since January.

TEAM BEEKEEPING

For Beginner Beekeepers

The concept is to have a team of new or non-beekeepers be responsible for the maintenance of a set of hives. Experienced beekeepers from the club will act as advisors but the teams will make the management decisions. The goal of the program is to turn beginner beekeepers into good beekeepers by using a hands-on approach. Books and videos are good sources of instruction but the best learning is by doing. This endeavor is definitely going to be a learning experience for the program developers as we learn what works and what doesn't.

The current objectives are for participants to learn:

- a proper hive inspection
- identifying the three castes of honey bees
- identifying the stages of brood
- distinguishing between food and brood
- identifying common pests and diseases and their treatments
- estimating the strength of the hive
- the importance of good record keeping
- managing hives for honey production and colony increases.

Throughout the program, the team members will be asked to demonstrate the skills needed to do an effective hive inspection.

These will include but are not limited to:

- lighting, maintaining and using a smoker
- using a hive tool
- correct frame removal technique
- identifying capped brood – worker, drone, queen cell
- identifying open brood – eggs, larvae (various ages)
- identifying food stores – pollen, nectar, capped honey
- estimating population by counting frames of bees
- identifying mites on bees and brood, perform a mite check (choice of method)
- recognizing and testing for foulbrood.

*The plan is for this program to run from **Bee School to Bee School**. This will give the team members the opportunity to maintain the hives through an entire season.*

At this time, we only have eight rules for the teams:

- All teams are responsible for their own hives. Stay out of the other's hives.
- Record keeping is required.
- The advisors' roles are to keep the teams from failing. They will give advice and intervene only when necessary.
- A minimum of one hive inspection per month is required. At least one hive per group will be mite tested.
- Mite checks will be performed using one of the current approved methods: ether roll, alcohol wash or CO₂.
- Hives with a >2% mite load will be treated using legal Federal/State approved methods.
- High mite counts for one group may necessitate a mite treatment for the entire yard.
- Other pests and diseases (small hive beetles, ants, brood diseases) shall be treated using Federal/State approved beekeeping pest control methods.
- No “Treatment Free” beekeeping.

The plan is for this program to run from Bee School to Bee School. This will give the team members the opportunity to maintain the hives through an entire season. Upon completion of the program, the beekeeper should have the knowledge and skills needed to maintain and increase their own personal hives with confidence.

We are excited about starting this program and look forward to seeing how it evolves. We have seven hive stands with three hives each. We assigned six of them to teams and left one to be managed by the advisors. Hives on the advisors' bench will be used for public demonstrations,

(continued on next page)



NEW BEEKEEPING PROGRAM



for SOWEGA Beekeepers – (CONT'D)

supplying frames for observation hives used at school and festival talks and as emergency resources in case one of the teams is in crisis.

We met for the first time on Saturday, March 31, to form teams and do the first inspections. It was an exciting day and the advisors were kept busy. Several participants had never been near live bees before. Since many of the hives were splits in the various stages of requeening, frame swapping was allowed between teams this time so that everyone could start out essentially even. The team members will now decide on their workday schedules, management styles and their goals. We encouraged them to research different

beekeeping practices and techniques. They will be permitted to try new methods as long as they are first approved by the advisors.

Our hopes are that the club can draw valuable information about which techniques work best for our area and compare equipment types. With good record keeping, we can compare results from the different teams. The program developers are in entirely new territory here. We have already learned some things that need changing to make things run smoother. One of those is: never have a bunch of beginners open twenty one hives up at the same time. We were lucky that the girls were in a good mood that day.

You just might be a Beekeeper if:

- **911 calls YOU for an emergency.**
- You get stung and it's your fault.
- You're sad when you get stung only because you know the bee will die.
- Driving around with bees in your window doesn't bother you.
- You go to the store for eggs and come back with a car full of sugar.
- **Your freezer has no room for meats.**
- You're excited when the news reports a high pollen day.
- You avoid mowing the lawn because of the clovers and dandelions.
- **You know your queens' birthdays but not your wife's.**
- You misspell words like "beehave" & "because".
- The post office has you on speed dial.
- The flow hive has actually made your life more complicated.
- You walk in the shadow of Morgan Freeman.
- You think you're as cool as Morgan Freeman.
- Enough about Morgan Freeman!
- **Quit asking about the Flow Hive!!!**
- You know what "propolis" is.
- People act surprised when they hear you did "splits".
- You didn't know your "Russian girls" were hot until after you bought them.
- You know the "waggle dance".



"Oh, but it's fine for you to grade papers?"

- You mention installing a "nuke" (nuc) in your backyard and people stare.
- You smell like smoke but you haven't been camping.
- **Your car is covered with mustard spots.**
- The neighbors think you care about every hornets nest they see.
- You plan weddings & vacations around the honey harvest.
- **Your first pound of honey cost you \$800!!**

[Author unknown. This was seen on a Facebook beekeeping page.]

UPDATE: BEEKEEPING AT DOOLY PRISON

— by Rick Moore

Early in April, Dooly State Prison received five packages of bees. The first year and second year certified beekeepers assisted the third year class in installing the bees. Dooly currently has 18 colonies of bees after installing these, doing splits and capturing one swarm. We are anticipating a very good year for both the bees and the honey production.



Photos by Anita Curry

Back to School!

Beekeepers present to local schools

Steve Altom of Polk County Beekeepers, is talking to a local pre-school class about honey-bees. They were very excited to see a beekeeper in a bee suit. He had a brand new smoker with him and they all wanted to feel that puff of air from the smoker. Their teacher asked if he would leave the smoker so she could use it to calm the kids later that day!!



Anita Curry and Rick Moore visited Ms. Sparks' kindergarten class at K.B. Sutton Elementary School in Forsyth this month to teach the children about honey bees. Armed with an observation hive, the pair pointed out the marked queen to the children and played the honey bee game with them. After sampling delicious honey and playing with a piece of real beeswax, all the children wanted to become beekeepers.

Need a speaker for your club?

Our GBA maintains a speaker and presenter list of qualified persons. [Check it out here.](#)



RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB'S MISSION

Education of beekeepers and the general public is the mission of most of our Georgia Beekeepers Association clubs. Our presidents and officers know how hard it is to have high quality education programs and meetings without the financial resources. Here is a list of ideas which may help your club raise money to fund your educational mission.

- Raffles with \$1, \$5 and \$10 tickets - use big ticket (maybe \$10) for the expensive thing the club invested in, such as an extractor, a complete hive, refractometer, a weekend getaway. Tara Beekeepers Association only draws the big ticket items quarterly.
- Small raffle items are often donated by members – such as bee-themed knick-knacks, small hive beetle jails, Boardman feeders, potted plants for bees. With small items donated, the \$1 or \$5 ticket is truly income to the club.
- In a number of clubs, members bought a GBA conference registration and then donated it to their own club's auction.
- Buy in bulk and sell nucs, packages, queens, or equipment purchased with club money and then sell at a small profit to your members a couple of times a year.

- Several local clubs buy sugar in bulk and sell that to the members at a small profit.
- Go to places where you usually shop and tell them exactly what you are doing and ask for donations for your bee club's auction and or raffles; invite them to your meetings, events.
- Buy local stores' gift certificates from restaurants, coffee shops, hardware stores sporting goods stores etc. and sell these at auction.
- Offer a beekeeping short course each year or a varroa field day or a hands-on-hive day and set the fee high enough to include a small profit to add to your club's bank account.

Think like a boy scout or a girl scout and be prepared – plan your monthly programs a year in advance; know how much money you need to fund your educational efforts (speakers, etc.) and then plan your fundraising with that goal in mind.

Make sure everyone understands that the money you make on these efforts goes toward the club for paying speakers, developing training materials or even your annual picnic or party.

– Gina Gallucci
GBA Vice-President

The **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute** ([click here](#) for the pdf) has plenty of openings! [Click here to register](#) for the 2018 Beekeeping Institute: **May 9-11** in **Young Harris, GA**. Great speakers, great beekeeping knowledge shared and the opportunity to pass your Certified, Journeyman, Master, or Master Craftsman Beekeeper levels. **Don't miss it!**

Within the GBA there are many opportunities for you to **volunteer** as an officer, a director, committees, or to help with the many, many tasks working behind the scenes. [CLICK HERE](#) to go the sign up page. You have much to share, it is your time to **help**.

*Everyone talks about varroa, but did you know on the GBA website we have a link to **Honey Bee Health Coalition** and their **FREE VARROA RESOURCES**. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.*

GOT YOUR SWARM ON?



Above: Photo by Todd Folger.



Left, and below: Photos (3) by Larry Compton of Walton Beekeepers.



Above: Photo by Rick Moore. "After watching these bees swarm, I grabbed a box and Swarm Commander and coaxed these girls out of the tree."



Above: Gina Gallucci's Swarm Trap in action.



Above: Photo by Anita Curry, swarm found in her apiary.



Above: Photo by Steve Altom, a large feral swarm found in an oak tree.

Below: Also by Rick Moore.





BIP: BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

Last year the state of Georgia, with all of our beekeepers and beekeeping business had a very low participation rate in this national survey. Help the Bee Informed Partnership compile important information about bee survival in our state and across the nation by completing this survey.

Here is a part of their email:

Please take the survey now so that we can all understand honey bee health better!

Take it here: <https://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=LMS2018#>

For more information about the survey, or to see a preview of it, check out:

<https://beeinformed.org/participate/>.

Also, if you have any questions somebody else might have asked it before. We just compiled a list of frequently asked questions; have a look at it here: <https://beeinformed.org/2018/04/13/colony-loss-and-management-survey-2017-2018-frequently-asked-questions/>

For any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact us on support@beeinformed.org.

Thanks for taking a few moments to complete this survey!

GBA OFFICER ELECTIONS – 2018

The GBA will hold our annual election of officers and directors at the fall meeting, which this year is **September 27-29, 2018**. We will be voting for President, Vice-President, and three Directors.

Now is the time to think about who will make a great leader in our club; someone you know, or perhaps yourself. Please send an email with the person's name and contact information, and the office you think he/she would be a good fit.

Each person who is running needs to submit a bio (short – 80 words) for himself/herself, and answer this question: **Where or how do you see GBA growing in the next two years?**

Please respond to [Rick Moore](#) who is the Chairman of the committee.



IN MEMORIAM:



For Jonathan Lorincz

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Jonathan Lorincz son of Debbie and Peter Lorincz.

He died after an extended battle with cancer. He passed early April 14, 2018.

Jonathan's funeral service was held at **Faith Bible Church**, 4907 GA-34, Sharpsburg, GA 30277



For Bud Champlin

Walter "Bud" Champlin, Master Beekeeper, a co-founder of **Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia**, was well known among many GBA members, Young Harris Bee Institute attendees, the beekeeping community in general and north Georgians, as beekeeper, swarm retriever, veteran, man of faith and just a good all around human being. He always had time to help, never said no, loved to educate and share his knowledge of what he loved: honeybees. Bud passed away last October. We all miss him very much.

The club is working on a few things to honor Bud's love of and dedication to honeybees. First, **The Friends of Talking Rock Nature Preserve** is raising funds through the sale of handmade benches and picnic tables to be placed in the preserve that can be personalized with a dedication plaque. The club will be donating a picnic table at a cost of \$250 to be dedicated to Bud. Second, the club will be creating a Walter "Bud" Champlin Memorial Fund to be used for special honeybee educational club projects. Our club is not a 501(c)3, but will accept and dedicate any donations stated to be specific to this fund.

CLUB MEETINGS

Please check the information about your club to ensure it is correct. Perhaps you now meet at a new location, or have a new president? If any changes or additions need to be made, please send them to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	Club President
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, May 7, 2018			Carmen Smith
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, May 15, 2018			Andy Marcus
Appalachian Beekeepers	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, May 10, 2018	Club business and round table discussion	PickensBeekeepers@gmail.com	Bill Norris
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909				Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Stephanie Quattlebaum
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 15, 2018	Topic: Club apiary, June joint clinic/picnic		Arron Robinson
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 8, 2018	Jennifer Tsuruda of Clemson, "Being a Responsible Beekeeper"	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Dave Collins
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, May 14, 2018			Brian Drebber
Brier Creek Beekeepers						Travis Sturdivant
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, May 16, 2018		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, May 14, 2018			Jim Ellis
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 8, 2018	Karen Philpot Sluder, the uses of propolis	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Sophia B Price
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, May 17, 2018			Steve Posey
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802					Terry Norman
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, May 14, 2018		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Gregory Stewart
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, May 14, 2018		steve@cowetahoney.com	Dan Scales
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	Fourth Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 22, 2018			Greg Zechman
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lanier Technical College, Winder-Barrow Campus 965 Austin Rd Winder, GA 30680	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, May 7, 2018		EPBAPres@gmail.com	Kevin Baker
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, May 10, 2018		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Robert Quarterman
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	City of Cumming Parks and Recreation Center 427 Pilgram Mill Rd Cumming, GA 30040	Forth Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, May 24, 2018	Keith Fielder, Seven Habits of Successful Beekeepers		Andy Bailey
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 15, 2018		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Rick Moore
Henry County Beekeepers	Henry County Parks & Recreation Office at Heritage Park Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 8, 2018			Monty Hartfield
Lake Country Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 12534 Augusta Hwy Sparta, GA	3rd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, May 21, 2018			Mary Lacksen
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, May 3, 2018	Cory Momany	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Kathy Bourn

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CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

Please check the information about your club to ensure it is correct. Perhaps you now meet at a new location, or have a new president? If any changes or additions need to be made, please send them to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	Club President
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, May 22, 2018			Slade Mercer
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, May 3, 2018			Steve Nofs
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 15, 2018	Christine Fortuin, a PhD Student at UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Introduction to the Wild Bees of Georgia	metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Julia Mahood
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, 30512			An Introduction to the Wild Bees of Georgia		Glen Henderson
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agricultural Center 555 Monroe Ave # 50 Clarkesville, GA 30523				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Katie Goodman
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers		2nd Monday	Monday, May 14, 2018	Linda Tillman		Roger Ardis
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farm House Restruant on Northside Dr E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm	Thursday, May 31, 2018			Bobby Colson
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, May 21, 2018			Joe Conti
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132					Victor Halbgewachs
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601					Carter Boatenrieter
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Room 245 Main St, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 10:00am	Saturday, May 5, 2018		polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Steve Altom
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Brutz English
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers						Barry Hart
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center in the Parks of Chehaw Albany, GA 31701				info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Gail Rakel
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, May 21, 2018		maryc7@aol.com	Keif Schleifer
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 1, 2018		threecountybees@gmail.com	Clinton Ready
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, May 14, 2018	Amanda Browning of Amandas Farm to Fork, Cooking with honey and making bread	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Bobby Chaisson
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, May 14, 2018		tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Derick Forester
Troup County Beekeepers	Ag Building 856 Vulcan Materials Rd Lagrange, GA 30241					Brad Myers
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, May 15, 2018	Bo Warren from the Ga Dept of Agriculture	waltonbees@yahoo.com	Susan Boss
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Hwy Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, May 28, 2018	May 12th, Picnic: Utter Place/ Heritage Baptist Church		Marilynn Parker

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia

The club is working toward creating a club apiary to be available for new beekeeper education, harvesting club honey to sell for funding club projects, for public education and for pollination of Talking Rock Nature Preserve. We are working with *Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land*, who owns the land for the preserve. The Friends of Talking Rock Nature Preserve was created to help develop the preserve into an outdoor space for all to get outside and enjoy communing with something other than an electronic screen.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Last month **Jennifer Berry** updated us on the oxalic acid treatment for mites using the shop towel as a mechanism for the deployment. The results are still not totally complete and the experiments have had limited success to date. There is another trial starting soon that will hopefully provide more optimistic results. We always enjoy having Jennifer share her research with the club and of course her humor is always welcome even though she is talking about Varroa.

Next month we have **Jennifer Tsuruda** from Clemson speaking with us about “Being a Responsible Beekeeper”. Jennifer is always an enjoyable speaker and we look forward to hearing her share her knowledge.

The nucs arrived from the **Flippin Bee Company** and have been distributed to the members. We sold close to 70 nucs and had bees a buzzing last weekend in many new hives throughout the area. This was a great opportunity to grow our membership and help out some new beekeepers.



Beekeepers Club of Gilmer County

The Beekeepers of Gilmer County will hold their next meeting on May 14th, at the Gilmer County Recreational Center. We will be discussing Chapters 5 and 6 of Keith Delaplane’s “First Lessons in Beekeeping”.

For members who wish to participate in the **BGC Apiary Hive inspections**, please meet at the apiary on Howard Simmons Road at 6pm (weather permitting.)

Coastal Empire Beekeeper Association (CEBA)



At the end of March, AmeriCorps volunteers stopped by the CEBA apiary at the **Oatland Island Wildlife Center** to learn about honey bee biology from **CEBA president Greg Stewart**.

Bee whisperer **Rob Potts** is having a busy time catching swarms in the Savannah area. (*Below.*)



Heart of Georgia Beekeeping

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met on April 17, with the main objective being the distribution of 100+ nucs. **President Broadus Williams** and member **Tim Smith**, gave a quick review on how to handle and place the nucs in the hive. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers

Lake Country Beekeepers Association welcomed **Stacy** and **Karen Roberts** from **Bee Faithful Farms** beefaithful-farms.com, as our guest speakers for the April 19th meeting. As a Certified Naturally Grown apiary, this beekeeping family shared personal management practices that avoid chemical use, and how to utilize various products from the hives. The hive products include pollen, propolis, royal jelly, wax, bee venom and the honey. Many of these products are packaged and marketed to the health care conscious consumer.

On **Thursday, May 17th**, LCBA will host an afternoon in the hive with our guest speaker, **Steve Page**. Steve is a familiar face with GBA and we look forward to learning about his hive management methods and particularly about the **Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping**. See www.cowetabeekeepers.org for more details on this presentation. This event will take place at **Morgan Apiaries** www.morganhoney.com in **Sparta, GA**. Steve's hive demonstration is 3:00 - 5:00 pm, a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm and our regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30 pm. Steve will also give a powerpoint presentation during the meeting, on steps to become a sustainable beekeeper. Please come join us for all or part of this fun and educational afternoon and evening. Contact **Mary Lacksen** 478.456.1049 or mlacksen@gmail.com for more information.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club heard a talk by **Joe Conti** on just about everything you wanted to know about splits (well almost everything) at their April meeting. There will be no May meeting, as the club will use the **Winterville Marigold Festival** on **May 12th** to take the place of a May meeting. We will have a booth at the festival with educational information and honey sales for the general public. Members and nonmembers are encouraged to come out and share "bee talk" with us!



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

It took us a couple of tries because of the wacky spring weather but the **Lake Hartwell Beekeepers** finally had our **hive inspection day** to go along with our short course.

Randall and Shairon Kerlin of **R&S Bee Farm** opened up their home bee yard to these new beekeepers. Randall joined **Drew Harvey, Steve Jones** and **Webb Smathers** in sharing their "bugs in a box" experiences with the group. The two most asked questions: "**what am I looking at?**" and "**how do I find the queen?**"

There was also talk about beekeeping gizmos and gadgets along with swarm catching tips and tricks.



Kathleen Bourn
President, Lake Hartwell
Beekeepers Assoc.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Queen Rearing Class, May 19 Forsyth County Beekeepers

Join us for a few hours and learn more about **how queens are reared** in the hive, and **how to graft your own**. This is a unique opportunity, not offered by many other clubs in the state. Each participant will be given the chance to make 4 of their own queens at essentially no cost. (Replacement queens are typically \$25+, plus shipping, so making them yourself is a huge value.)

Even if you're not looking to expand your apiary, this class will give you much insight into being a sustainable beekeeper. There's always someone wanting queens, so don't fret about having an extra bug with your name on it – someone will happily take it off your hands.

Payment will be accepted at the monthly meeting **April 26** (see [Kelley Campbell](#) or [Teri Meyer](#)), and at the door for the class. [Sign up is online here.](#)

SPACE IS LIMITED to **20 students** – first reserved/paid basis.



Tri-County Beekeepers Club

It has been an exciting month for Tri-County beekeepers. With the completion of **our new bee yard** at the City Park where we meet, we were able to use our monthly meeting to install a package of bees into our top bar hive as well as inspect the other hives already established. This was a great learning experience for many of our new members.

At present we have both an 8 frame and a 10 frame Langstroth hive, a top bar hive and flow hive, which I am sure everyone is interested in seeing the results of this year, but we also have more room to put in additional types of hives in the future. We again want to thank GBA and the Buzz Grant fund for making our club Bee Yard a possibility.

On **May 14th** we look forward to having **Amanda Browning** from Amanda's Farm to Fork in Lula, GA, to talk about cooking with honey. In June, **Harold Lanier** from Lanier Bee Barn will give a presentation on Honey Bee Biology, and in July, **Cindi Ball** from the Lazy B Farm will be presenting "Treasures of the Hive."

We are looking forward to a great beekeeping season this year and to seeing many new faces in beekeeping.

Walton County Bee Association

Our speaker for April was **Bo Warren** from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Warren spoke to us about the **GATE Card** and the changes that are coming with this program. He also spoke on the **Georgia Grown Program** and its certification process and finally an update from the Agriculture Department on the Honeybee License Plate.

Next Month...

The long hot summer begins in June. Tell us and show us what you are doing with your bees this summer. Do you have a special technique you use, a homemade jig, or secret recipe you can share?

Show us your swarm pictures.

Spill the Honey!

gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Just a couple more...



Crop Circles

There is no doubt you're a beekeeper when you mow **around** the clover patches because the bees are working them.



Clover photos by Holly Bayendor. Cartoon (below) by Julia Mahood.

DRONES ONLY

- HAVE U SEEN DAVE?** (with a drawing of a drone)
- DRONE SUPPORT GROUP**
Tuesdays at 7:00
THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:
"It's hard to have daddy issues when you're a drone."
Your brothers understand even if your sisters don't!
- MISSING JERRY** - last seen at the river DCA, chasing a tiger striped Queen.
- WHERE'S WALLY?** (with a drawing of a drone)
- ORIENTING WORKSHOPS**
Everyday at 4 PM
- MISSING TERRY** (with a drawing of a drone)
- Seen BILL?** (with a drawing of a drone)
- HAVE U SEEN LARRY?** (he owes me \$20! call Dan 555-5555)
- I6 and Me**
Kits now available! See Hal for deets!

© Julia Mahood

the boys
are back
in town!



Julia Mahood will be giving a talk on **"The Secret Life of Drones"** at the **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute** on May 10.

Come and learn something about these under-appreciated guys!



Spilling The Honey

JUNE 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spilling the Honey, our GBA newsletter, is one of the strongest vehicles we have in GBA to connect our members. Every issue is unique. Every issue offers something for our beekeeping skills and interest. Every issue helps each of us know what other clubs in the state are doing at their meetings.

How many times have you opened the newsletter to find an article teaching you something new? Over the years, there have been a number of articles on swarm catching, each involving some new twist or trick to learn. We've had discussion articles on pesticide usage, mosquito spraying, and bee death. We've read about how Earth Day has been celebrated by the beekeeping community. And there have been numerous questions and answers about various challenges of day to day beekeeping.

Our newsletter is all original. Most of the articles are written by our own members. Occasionally we add links to outside articles but we are proud that so many of our members are willing to share their beekeeping experiences and the events of their local clubs.

One of the most helpful parts of the newsletter for connecting purposes is to read about other clubs and their short courses. There are many ways to present a short course and we've seen lots of variations in the newsletter. As you read the ways other clubs do this important aspect of how we teach beekeeping to others, you can learn things that might help your own club.

A favorite part of the newsletter for me has been seeing who other clubs invite to speak and what their topics are. Most clubs don't have a speaker every single meeting, but the people who are asked and the subjects on which they speak, give all of us ideas of what we could be learning in our club. My hope is that you might read that Lake Hartwell is having Jennifer Tsurada as their July speaker and hop in your car to visit that meeting (and enjoy the beekeepers you find there). Or that you learn that Jennifer Berry is speaking at MABA in June and you get a group together to make a field trip to Atlanta to hear her. I love going to different clubs – both I get to see how meetings are run all over the state and I see people that I have met at our two annual meetings.

The best part of the newsletter is putting names to faces. We all get to know each other better from seeing who each person is. **Rick Moore** and **Holly Bayendor** are now the talented editors of this newsletter:

They are doing such a great job of putting together all the news that is fit to print about GBA and bee-goings-on all over the state. We are so lucky to have them.

If your club has a newsletter, please include me (gabeeepresident@gmail.com) on your mailing list. It's a great way to connect with the officers of GBA to share your newsletter with me.

Bee Well,

Linda T



Honeycomb - Everywhere!

– by Teresa Crowder

I picked up two nucs on Saturday, April 28th, and installed them successfully in my hives the following day. I had hoped to get them earlier, but due to weather issues and such, was not able to pick them up until late April. The installation went fine and everything was great, except that I had a longstanding commitment and had to leave town three days after installation and would not return for a week, leaving my brand new bees on their own for their first full week.



I would need to feed to help them get established. I didn't have any in-hive feeders in stock – I only had two outside Boardman feeders and knew that the bees would slurp through that amount of sugar water in a couple of days and be left with nothing once that was gone. So, I decided to try something I'd heard about, but never actually done before. I spread a sheet of newspaper over part of the brood chamber in each hive, poured half a bag of sugar on each, sprinkled some water, added an empty shallow super to create space, and closed the hives. That would give the bees plenty of food and time to get established.



I got back home and finally had time to get back into the hives a week or so later. I was absolutely stunned at what I found. My hives were going gangbusters, but the bees had filled the empty shallow supers with mound after mound of gorgeous yellow comb, all filled with honey. Yikes! Not what I expected at all. What do I do now? I can't get into my brood chamber to check on my queen and her brood, nor can I add a honey super, which I clearly need, without destroying what my bees had been so busy building. Well, if you're me and you're friends with past MABA president Holly Bayendor McConnell, you get on the phone! I called Holly, sent her pictures, and we discussed the situation.

Ultimately, we decided that I had no choice – I suited up, went in, and very carefully scraped the mounds of comb off the tops of the brood chamber frames. I ended up with four large containers full of beautiful comb and honey. I hated to do it and expected to have a lot of angry bees on my hands, but they were surprisingly docile and sweet and raised barely a buzz. I added new honey supers, closed up my hives and all is well.

Has this – or something like it – happened to you? What did you do?

Tell us your beekeeping story. No doubt we can learn from it, or nod our heads, because it's happened to us too!



TEAM BEEKEEPING PROGRAM



SOWEGA's new program of team beekeeping is nearing the end of its second month.

We have six teams of beekeepers ranging from rank beginner to fairly new. Two of the teams are large – at or near the maximum of six members and the other teams have two to four members. So far there is a lot of enthusiasm. Some of the teams work hives weekly or more often and others much less often.

Right now they are dealing with the problems of this heavy nectar flow we are having now as are many of the other club members. Queens are getting honey bound, hives are going broodless and queens are being superseded. All the teams have had to deal with weak hives and or managing queenless splits.

Without singling out specific teams, here is the rundown on how things are progressing:

One team started out with two fairly vigorous hives and a weak one which was lost in the first week. It was replaced with a queenless split from the advisor's bench, now has a beautiful queen and is getting a super on 5/26. Of the other two, one is very strong and has been a brood donor for the others. A virgin queen was introduced into the first hive which is also getting a super soon.

Another team with not many members has not been able to work the hives as often. They have lost two hives and have supered the remaining one, with plans to split it soon; a good lesson on recovering from your losses.

The next team has members that do not always come at the same time, but between them are maintaining 3 strong hives that have been supered already.

The largest team consists of all new beekeepers. Despite being saddled with 3 very aggressive hives, their excitement and dedication has not wavered. They started with a double medium and two single medium hives. The double donated brood to the other two when needed for requeening and also received a third box. It has now been split, giving this team a total of 4 hives. The temperament of the bees has improved dramatically. We no longer call them the **Mean Bees**. Right now the brood and available space is being closely monitored because of the heavy nectar flow. This team has outstanding record keeping.

Another small team has managed to build up all three hives to two boxes after having to let one requeen and introducing a virgin queen to another.

The last small team has the gentlest bees of all. They can be worked without smoke and a veil is not really needed (but we require it.) They started with two fairly strong hives and a dead-out. They now have three strong double hives.

Each of the six teams has members who have since gotten nucs or packages of their own and are applying what they

Right now...Queens are getting honey bound, hives are going broodless and queens are being superseded. All the teams have had to deal with weak hives and or managing queenless splits.

learn from the team hive experience to their hives at home.

Not to leave out the advisor hives – they are struggling. We pulled a lot of resources from them to help the teams at start-up. All three hives had virgin queens introduced. We will know soon if they are successful.

On our last club **Open Hive** day we demonstrated doing a mite count using the CO2 method. Several teams checked their hives. Mite counts are very low at this time.

Does your club need a speaker?

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.

It's Time to Nominate:

THE 2018 BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Every year GBA awards **Beekeeper of the Year** to one member who stands out above the rest in their efforts in the Georgia beekeeping world. To see the names of people who were selected in past years, [click here](#).

The bylaws have these guidelines for the person who is chosen:

The **Georgia Beekeeper-of-the-Year** should:

1. Exemplify good beekeeping practices;
2. Demonstrate leadership;
3. Promote Georgia's beekeeping industry;
4. Creatively solve problems of industry-wide concern; and
5. Actively participate in local, regional, or national beekeeping organizations.

The Beekeeper of the Year committee is selected by the President to represent the entire state. The selection committee this year includes: **Sophia Price, Bobby Chaisson, Slade Mercer** and **PN Williams**.

To nominate a GBA member for Beekeeper of the Year, [click here](#). The deadline for nominations is **July 15**. Announcement of Beekeeper of the Year for 2018 will be made at the **GBA Fall Conference**.



Last year's Georgia Beekeeper of the Year was Brutz English. Brutz is shown here with (l.) Linda Tillman (GBA President) and (r.) Gina Gallucci (GBA Vice President).



OFFICER ELECTIONS: 2018

GBA will be electing officers at our annual fall membership conference in **September**. Per our BYLAWS, we elect the president and vice president on even-numbered years and the secretary and treasurer on odd-numbered years. This year we will be voting for the offices of president and vice-president.

We will be electing three of the six directors as well. These directors when elected will each be assigned to represent one of the following groups:

Group 1: MABA, Cherokee, Gwinnett, Paulding, Bartow, Cartersville, Walton,

Group 3: NE Ga, Tri-County, Amicalola, Lake Hartwell, Eastern Piedmont and Oglethorpe and

Group 6: Henry, Potato Creek, West GA, Coweta, TARA, Troup and East Metro.

Each director serves a two-year term. It is not necessary for the director to live near or participate in those clubs, but the current directors have found that living/being a part of a club in the director's group makes visiting the clubs much easier. It is difficult to do a good job as director if you do not live in or very close to your assigned group.

Nominations are open to all dues paid current members of GBA. Please forward your nominee's name, club, phone number, email contact information and the reasons this person will make a great candidate to GBAelections2018@gmail.com. This is your opportunity to serve GBA in fulfilling ways, so please feel free to nominate yourself.

Self-nominations are encouraged and are welcomed!

HANDS ON

at Young Harris Beekeeping Institute

Young Harris Beekeeping Institute is designed with achievement in mind. People attending may follow the tracks to Certified, Journeyman, Master, or Master Craftsman beekeeper and there is a separate track for Welsh Honey Judge. However, the planners of the event do want us to come, even if we are not working on a certification level, so many other talks are offered.

Geoff Williams from Auburn's newly revamped bee lab gave a very interesting talk on Chemicals and Pathogens which he will be giving at our GBA Fall Conference. He looks at the balance of power in the relationship between the chemical and the bug it is going after. **Brutz English** gave a talk on what's involved in getting certified as a Welsh honey judge and how one earns the white coat. **Lewis Bartlett**, whose English accent and bee-themed shoes can make any subject interesting, explored 50 years of honey bee virology.

In the middle of all the lectures and PowerPoints, there was our own **Julia Mahood**, giving a hands-on class on how to make beeswax wraps. People, tired of sitting for several days, were delighted to line up to make two different beeswax wraps.

Julia had lined the table with brown paper and had a pancake griddle at the ready for warming our wax mixture. She had premeasured and molded blocks of a wax/Demar/JoJoba oil mix on hand for us to use. We even got to stamp our cloth with little honey bees if we wished before coating the fabric with wax.

Julia explained the process well with her own unique PowerPoint illustrations and then we lined up eagerly to take our turns. The griddle was just the right degree of warmth; the block of wax mixture melted easily; and the paint brush used for spreading the warm mix evenly over the cloth worked like a dream. And the brown paper did its job, catching the drips from our cloths when we clipped them with tiny clothespins onto coat-hangers to dry.

A perfect break in a long few days, everyone was excited to have their very own wax wrap to carry home.

If you went to Young Harris this year, we'd love for you to share your stories, pictures and thoughts about your experience. Send those articles and pictures to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.



Master Beekeeper Julia Mahood demonstrated making beeswax wraps at this year's Young Harris Bee School.



THE STATE OF THE PLATE

WE are thrilled to report that the final approval **step has been taken.** On May 8, Governor Nathan Deal signed into law the bill to approve our honey bee license plate. The state of Georgia is in the process of implementing new software for the manufacture of license plates so no new ones will be manufactured until the software is up and running in 2019.

We can't put our honey bee plate on our vehicles until next year, but in the meantime, **we can support it, talk about it** to our gardening friends and other friends of the bees, and keep dreaming about how delightful it will be to have one on our cars and trucks.



Bob Binnie in his store, *Blue Ridge Honey Company*, on Hwy 441 in NE Georgia has placed a copy of the plate on his wall where all customers will see it. What a great way to publicize our endeavor! Thank you, Bob.

Reminder!! Fall Honey Show

Just a reminder, fall will be here before you know it, and so will the GBA's annual **State Honey Show!** The State Honey Show will be held during the **GBA Fall Conference** on the last weekend in September. The fall show is the state championship for all things honey and wax. All honey categories from the various extracted classes, to comb varieties, and creamed honeys will be on exhibition. There will also be several beeswax block and candle classes in which members can compete. The State Honey Show is always a lot of fun, but it is important to plan and prepare ahead of time for many of these classes. Making sure you have the correct jars and lids, carefully harvesting and packaging honeycomb sections, and getting beeswax rendered and poured, all take time. So, start planning now, and get to work on preparing those exhibits, because I want to see you all at the GBA Fall Conference and State Honey Show this September!

Brutz English
GBA Honey Show Committee Chairperson

Bearding



– by Rick Moore

Does it seem to you the bees are bearding much more this year than in past years? And no, these hives are not candidates for splitting as many recently were split.



Photos by Rick Moore



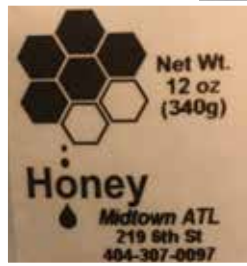
ANNUAL MIDTOWN ATLANTA GARDEN STROLL

— by Bryan Williams

This year GBA and MABA members were featured in the Garden Stroll.

On Sunday **May 20th** from noon to 5 pm Georgia Beekeepers Association (GBA) and Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA) members **Bryan Williams** and **Krista VanSciver** welcomed area garden enthusiasts into their midtown apiary during the **Annual Midtown Garden Stroll**, hosted by the Midtown Neighbors' Association. This was a free event open to the public and provided an opportunity to see the gardens at private homes in the Midtown Garden District. This was the 5th year for the Stroll and Bryan's and Krista's Midtown ALT Honey apiary was the only beekeeping yard on the tour this year.

"The surprising bit for me was how genuinely interested in the bees visitors were. They wanted to know everything: where the bees came from, how the bees were



"I really enjoyed sharing my passion with our guests," said Bryan, a Certified Beekeeper. "I showed and explained my apiary to them and helped them find the workers, queen and drones in the observation hive. I pointed out the capped and uncapped honey, brood and pollen in the comb. Several guests said it was an unexpected treat to learn so much about bees during the garden stroll. My greatest challenge was remembering what I had already told the current set of guests and to offer them a taste of my honey. I was a bit hoarse, but happy, after talking non-stop about my bees for five hours."

Bryan and Krista have been keeping bees in Midtown Atlanta for four years. They currently have three hives at home in their midtown apiary and one near Lake Lanier in Gainesville, GA. Bryan claims they will have honey to sell this year; Krista will wait to see if they do. Bryan and Krista started beekeeping when bees moved into their then rental apartment balcony, setting up a beautiful natural comb home there.



All photos by Bryan Williams and Krista VanSciver, members of GBA and MABA.

kept, how the honey was harvested and if we made any money from the hobby. Of course, I had to tell them that after four years we had spent more on beekeeping than we made," said Krista.

Bryan and Krista set up a static display on a table a safe distance away from the busy garden hives. The static display included handouts and posters, and beekeeping gear in addition to the not-so-static MABA observation hive.



Funding the Buzz Fund

Donate to our Buzz Fund Grant Fund

Please consider donating to our GBA Buzz Fund Grant fund. Our beekeepers have been doing amazing things across the state for honey bee education with funds from the Buzz Fund. For the latest grants given, please look at last month's *Spilling the Honey* newsletter. Consider donating:

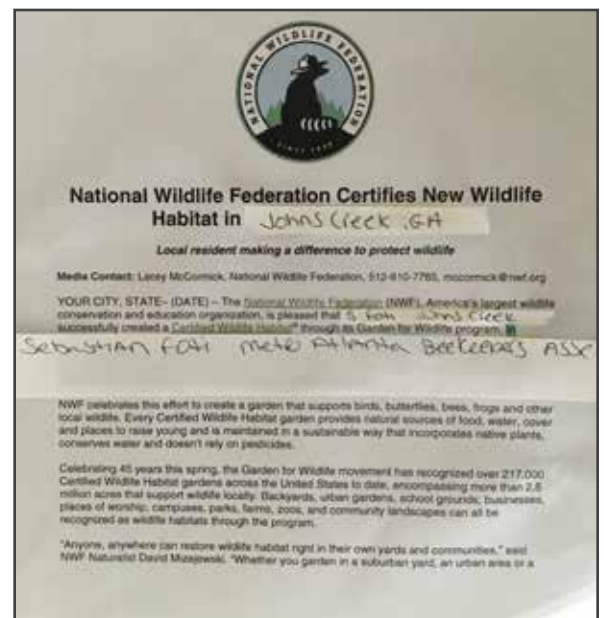
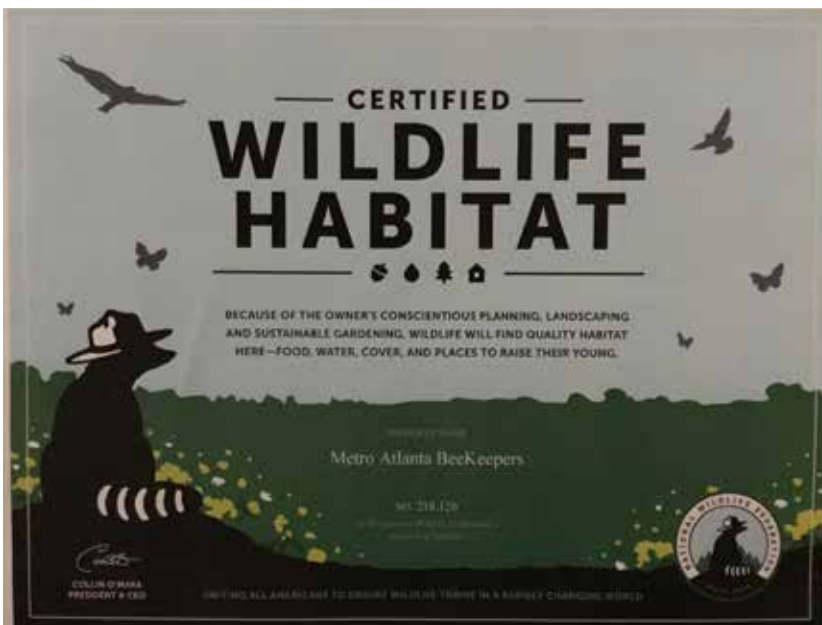
- In memory of someone's passing
- To honor your passing the Certified Beekeepers exam
- To commemorate your anniversary in beekeeping
- To celebrate a significant birthday
- NAME YOUR OWN EVENT to celebrate!

[Click here](#) and choose the **donate** button on the upper right to give money to the Buzz Fund.

ANOTHER PLACE TO CALL HOME

– by *Darek Foti*

I was able to certify my property with the **National Wildlife Federation** as a new wildlife habitat in Johns Creek, Georgia. By providing natural sources of food, water, cover and a place to raise wildlife young, and it's maintained in a sustainable manner that incorporates native plants, conserves water and doesn't rely on pesticides. THE NATURAL WAY!!!



Photos by Darek Foti, member of MABA



THE FINE ART OF DELEGATING

One of the gifts of being the president of this organization is that I am learning so much about the value of delegating and want to encourage local club presidents to try this as well. I asked several current and past presidents to give me input about how delegation works for them.

I heard from **Susan Boss** who is President of **Walton County Beekeepers**. Like me, she finds delegation difficult, but she tries to employ it. She says, "I typically base my choice (of who to ask to do a task) on the level of interest that a member shows in the overall club. The more active they are, the more likely that I will ask them to do a specific task." Then she follows up with them through text or email.

Teri Meyer, past President of **Forsyth County**, said that Forsyth has a very active Board of Directors. She would try to pass tasks on to members, but if nobody volunteered, she would do it or a Board member would. Sometimes an inexperienced member would volunteer and in that event, "...I would try and pair them with a veteran member so they could gain experience and not be overwhelmed."

In many clubs the same people do all the work, but delegation is an opportunity to involve more people. Sometimes the act of volunteering is too much but a person would be glad to do a task if asked. This is the value of delegation.

I think delegating tasks to a variety of members in bee clubs helps in a number of ways:

1. The person asked to do a job feels valued and then you have an opportunity to give them applause and support when the task is completed.
2. Everyone has hidden skills and talents and you may discover unknown special abilities of some of your club members
3. By involving more of your members in the work of the club, you introduce them to the tasks required to keep a club going and they may find that being involved is not as hard as they imagined.
4. If a delegated task includes several members, they have the possibility of getting to know each other better and then wanting to work together on something else.

Delegating tasks in your bee club keeps people interested and motivated to work for the club and helps the club president keep the club functioning well.

– **Linda Tillman**
GBA President



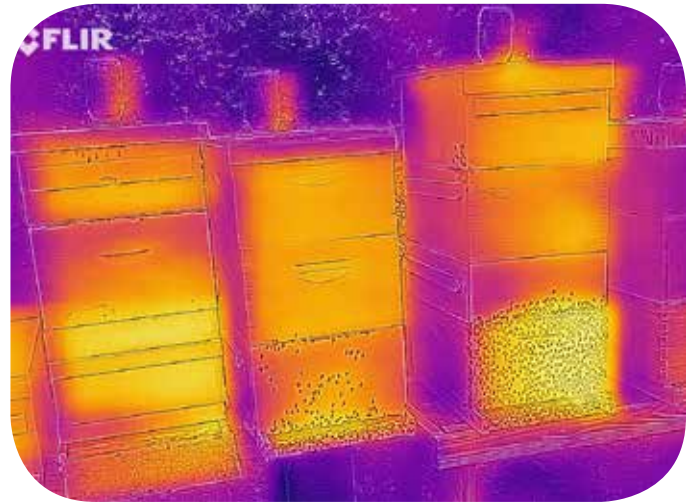
"Roundup" Substitute

Mix the following ingredients. Spray on weeds early in the day for best effect. Repeated applications may be necessary.

- 1 gallon distilled white vinegar
- 2 cups Epsom salts
- ¼ cup Dawn dishwashing detergent (the original Blue)

KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR BEES

You've heard how the bees move around inside the hive, and how different parts of the hive are warmer than others; using a **Thermal Imaging Camera attachment (FLIR)** on my Samsung Galaxy S6 cell phone, I recorded these images. Outside temperature that evening was 80°F.



WHY HONEY BEE IS TWO WORDS

Regardless of dictionaries, we have in entomology a rule for insect common names that can be followed. It says: *If the insect is what the name implies, write the two words separately; otherwise run them together.* Thus we have such names as house fly, blow fly, and robber fly contrasted with dragonfly, caddicefly, and butterfly, because the latter are not flies, just as an aphision is not a lion and a silverfish is not a fish. The honey bee is an insect and is preeminently a bee; “honeybee” is equivalent to “Johnsmith.”



—From *Anatomy of the Honey Bee*
by Robert E. Snodgrass



NEXT MONTH...

Summer is upon us. It's time to make splits, requeen, and harvest that golden, sticky goo we all love so much. It's also time to tickle the keys on your keyboard and write something for this newsletter. Tell us about a special technique you have, show a picture of your homemade jig, how about pictures of your honey house and the people helping you. We encourage you to write a few lines, take a few pictures, and send it all to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

See you in next month's *Spilling the Honey!*

CLUB MEETINGS

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form (<http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Forms/LocalClubForm>) to let us know.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, June 4			Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, June 19			Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, June 14	Julia Mahood	PickensBeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909				Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 19	Topic: Club apiary, June joint clinic/picnic		Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 12	Club's Annual Summer Picnic, Rancho Alegre Farm*	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, June 11			Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers						
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, June 20		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, June 11			Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 12	Karen Philpot Sluder, the uses of propolis	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Saturday, June 16 (Picnic) Thurs, July 19 (meeting)	Annual Picnic Pickens County Chamber of Commerce June 16 (no regular meeting)		Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802					Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, June 11		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, June 11		steve@cowetahoney.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	Fourth Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 26			Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lanier Technical College, Winder-Barrow Campus 965 Austin Rd Winder, GA 30680	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, June 4		EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, June 14		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	City of Cumming Parks and Recreation Center 427 Pilgram Mill Rd Cumming, GA 30040	Forth Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, June 28	Jennifer Berry, UGA Bee Lab Manager		Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 19		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Henry County Parks & Recreation Office at Heritage Park Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 12			Henry

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CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)



Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form (<http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Forms/LocalClubForm>) to let us know.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Lake Country Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 12534 Augusta Hwy Sparta, GA	3rd Monday, 6:30pm	Thursday, June 21			Hancock
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, June 7	Kathy Bourn	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, June 26			Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, June 7			Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 19	Jennifer Berry, UGA Bee Lab Manager	metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, 30512			An Introduction to the Wild Bees of Georgia		Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agricultural Center 555 Monroe Ave # 50 Clarkesville, GA 30523				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers		2nd Monday	Monday, June 11			Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farm House Restruant on Northside Dr E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm	Thursday, June 28			Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, June 18			Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132					Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601					Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Room 245 Main St, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 10:00am	Saturday, June 2		polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers						Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center in the Parks of Chehaw Albany, GA 31701				info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, June 18		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 5		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Thursday, June 21	Harold Lanier, Honey Bee Biology	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, June 11		tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Ag Building 856 Vulcan Materials Rd Lagrange, GA 30241					Troup
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, June 19	Bo Warren from the Georgia Department of Agriculture	waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Hwy Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, June 25	Gadgets		Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia

Event: Monthly Meeting will be Thursday, June 14, at 7:00 pm, at Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA. Our speaker will be Julia Mahood, Ga. Master Beekeeper, President – MABA.

Club Apiary Update

The club had its first hands on field day at the new apiary at **Talking Rock Nature Preserve**. Attendance was low, but we experienced exactly why we need this. “**Not yet beekeepers**” that attended our Beginning Beekeeper Course in February, but were not ready to purchase bees this season will see and feel, not just read or hear about, what is involved in beekeeping.



Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Our May speaker was **Jennifer Tsuruda** from Clemson University, who spoke on “**Being a Responsible Beekeeper**”. Jennifer did a great job explaining both basic and advanced methods for better beekeeping and our responsibility to other beekeepers and non-beekeepers. Her talk was almost 2 hours long and she shared some outstanding photography of our honeybee friends. Jennifer is a one person show at Clemson, but you would never know it with what all she gets accomplished! What a terrific speaker.

Next month is our annual picnic. This year because our club has grown so much, we are having it at the Little Mulberry Park, Fence Road pavilion in Dacula. Last names beginning with A-L should bring desserts and those M-Z should bring a side dish to share. We’ll have burgers, hot dogs, and brats on the grill! I’m sure we’ll have our usual outstanding desserts with honey in their ingredients!

The honey flow is still on in NE Georgia but privet and tulip popular are beyond their peak. Now if we could just get the rain to stop! Many of us are preparing to move bees to north Georgia to catch what we hope is a great sourwood flow.

Beekeepers Club of Gilmer County



Army Corp of Engineers, **Allan Earhart** is pictured below installing beehives in **Carters Lake Visitor Center** new apiary site. This is the second year Beekeepers of Gilmer County have been assisting in the development of this pollinator project at the visitor center.

UGA sponsored, Gilmer County Master Gardeners have joined in and are helping with developing the native pollinator gardens which will enhance the educational project.

The project received a significant grant based on their work with the BGC. As well, other corps sites are contacting Allan with interest in replicating the project.



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

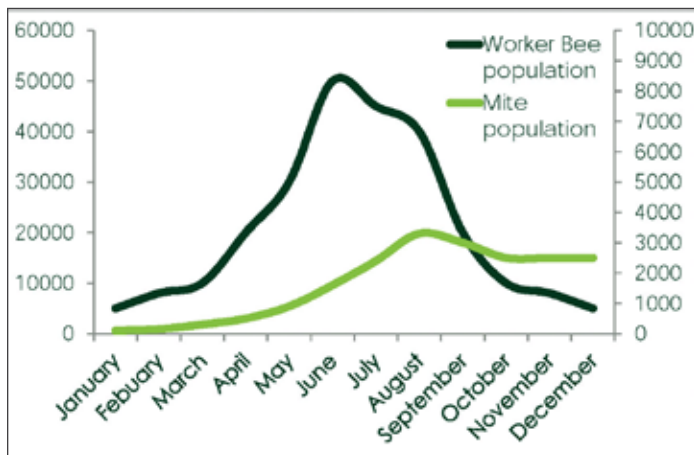
Coastal Empire Beekeeper Association (CEBA)

In May, Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association president **Greg Stewart**, (*below, right.*) and **Kristine Beeco** installed a package of bees in **Savannah Christian Preparatory School's** new observation hive – part of **The Bee Cause Project**. We also welcomed a **gopher tortoise** who is building a new burrow in our apiary, which is located within the Oatland Island Wildlife Center. (*Below, left.*)



Forsyth County Beekeepers

Disease and Disorder Day – As you can see from this graph, it's imperative we are aware of varroa numbers and their impact on our colonies. We are quickly approaching the time of year when bee populations are at their peak, and soon, that will decline and mites will take over.



Bill Dunn, queen rearing speaker at GBA Spring Conference, has hosted this Disease & Disorder class for many years, and together with other experienced keepers/mentors, numerous questions are answered and misconceptions are corrected. We will look at disorders of the hive, and learn how to correct them. We will also discuss diseases, and how to prevent and combat them.

\$10 cash or check (made to Forsyth Beekeepers Club, or FBC) for members. Payment collected at the class.

Non-members are welcome to join at the class. Dues are \$20. Please complete the [membership form online here](#).

Heart of Georgia Beekeeping

Heart of GA Beekeepers met Tuesday, May 15. A program on Plants for Pollinators was presented by members **Kathy Shelton** and **Emily Heath**, who are also Master Gardener extension volunteers. The program consisted of a power-point showing plants which are excellent pollen and/or nectar sources for bees and other pollinators and a reminder about the use of pesticides. Handouts included a list of which plants are blooming each month in middle Georgia. After the program, a show and tell session consisted of **Tony Castellano's** design for an upper cover to provide added ventilation, and **Broadus Williams'** robber screen design. **Jesse McCurdy** has offered a Saturday session for the "newbies" to explore a hive and receive an explanation of what one is seeing. The meeting ended with a general question/answer session from the members. The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 19** at 7:00 pm.

Lake Country Beekeepers

Our next meeting will be: **Thursday, June 21st** at 6:30 pm, at te Hancock County Library - 8984 E. Broad Street - Sparta, GA. Our guest speaker will be **Keith Fielder** whose topic is: "Honey varieties, pairings, and taste components."

Join us on Saturday, **June 16th** at **10:00 am** - 4:00 pm at Morgan Apiaries, 196 WJ Archer Road, Sparta, GA for **Varroa Treatment Field Day**, presented by **Brett Nolan PhD.** and **Nicholas Weaver**. This hands on demonstration is about varroa including the testing and treatments - IPM, natural acids and commercial miticides.

To attend you must preregister – \$35 (includes lunch). Contact **Mary Lacksen** 478.456.1049 or mlacksen@gmail.com.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

On **Thursday, June 7th**, the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers will learn about the adventures of **top bar** beekeeping. **Kathy Bourn** will cover styles of top bars hives, how to build the hives and the easiest way to manage a top bar hive. She'll also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of keeping bees on top bars. The meeting starts at 7pm in the Family Life Building at The First Baptist Church of Lavonia (95 W. Bowman St. Lavonia 30553). All are welcome.



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Tri-County Beekeepers Club



Tri-County Beekeepers meet at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month at Gillsville City Park in Gillsville, GA. This past meeting, May 14, we were joined by **Amanda Browning**, owner of **Amanda's Farm to Fork** in Lula, GA. Amanda spoke

about cooking with honey, and made some terrific teriyaki chicken as she spoke. We also sampled some of her baked goods, which were made with honey, as well as getting many recipes including BBQ sauce and salad dressings using honey.

The bee yard is doing great, even the top bar hive is thriving. The ability to teach new beekeepers hands on is invaluable and we again thank all those who had a part in making it possible.

Next month our very own **Harold Lanier** will be presenting a class on Honey Bee Biology. We would like to say congratulations to both Harold Lanier and to **Bobby Chaisson** for receiving their **Journeyman Beekeeper Certification** at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute this year.



We will be hosting a **Varroa Field Day** on **June 23rd** from 9am to 4pm. Brett Nolan and Nicholas Weaver will give classroom presentations and then we will be in the bee yard with live colonies performing mite sampling and treatments. You can register online at www.tricounty-beekeepers.net. The price is \$35.00 per person and includes lunch.

Troup County Bee Association



Troup County Association of Beekeepers will be holding our **annual painted hive contest on June 2nd** at the farmers market on Main. The public will vote on the best painted hive and the winner will receive a pound of local honey and a \$25 gift certificate. These hives

were painted by **Heard County High School art students**. One of the hives belongs to Georgia Beekeepers and was donated by Rossman. It will be auctioned off at the fall meeting. The other hives were donated by a previous member and benefactor to TCAB. They will be auctioned off in the coming months at our meetings.

Brutz English spoke on planting for bees at our **May 21st** meeting. **Susan Ray** will speak on bee extractions at our **June 18th** meeting.

Walton County Bee Association

Our regularly scheduled meeting was held on Tuesday, May 15. Our guest speaker was **Bill Dunn** who spoke on the Biological and Practical Aspects of Queen Rearing. We had 2 new members join and a total of 28 in attendance. We also voted as a club to send a donation to **Don Kuchenmeister (The Fat Bee Man)**. Our club made a donation of \$200.00, members contributed another \$40.00 and Mr. Dunn donated his speaking fee for a total of \$375.00.

Our next meeting will be June 19th when **Bobby Chaisson** of Blue Sky Honey will speak on Honey Extraction.



Photo by Linda Rivers. Linda writes: "Exactly one year to the day after my mother's passing, I discovered this **heart-shaped swarm** in a young pine tree directly above **where my mother's ashes were buried**. She was a great supporter of my bee endeavors. Truly heartwarming!"

Until next month! Remember to send us your bee happenings and club news.





Spilling *The* Honey

JULY 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Registration is now open for the fall conference. We are so excited to hold our fall conference somewhere new at the [Forsyth Conference Center at Lanier Technical College at 3410 Ronald Reagan Blvd in Cumming, GA 30041](#). The conference center offers a pleasant place to meet with all of the conveniences of a building designed specifically for presenting meetings like ours. I expect us to have a great time there.

On Thursday night, September 27, we will open the GBA Fall Conference with a dinner at the conference center. Our featured speaker for the dinner is **Maryann Frazier** who will be talking to us about our love of honey bees.

The title of her talk is "Bee Dazzled." Her description of what she will address: "As a beekeeper, you are already "bee dazzled." For this reason, you have the power to "bee dazzle" others. I will share with you, why you should and how you can, use your passion and knowledge to "bee dazzle" everyone you know!"

Our Thursday night dinner happens after the GBA Board meeting (which anyone can attend). Feel free to join us for the board meeting to see what your officers are up to and to learn more about how GBA is run. But even if you don't want to come to the board meeting, please register for the dinner - a great place to connect with beekeeping friends all over the state.

Then on Friday and Saturday, we will engage in lots of bee education. In addition to Maryann Frazier, who will give two talks at the meeting, we also have featured: **Jerry Hayes, Izzy Hill, and Juliana Rangel**. Breakout talks will be given by **Geoff Williams, Amy Weeks**, and many well-known Georgia beekeepers.

To register, [click here](#) and I look forward to seeing many, many of you there.

On other fronts, our **Beekeeper of the Year** committee is working hard. You have until **July 15th** to make a nomination. If there is a beekeeper you know who deserves this honor, please [click here to fill out the form](#) and nominate someone you'd like to see recognized.

Also it is time to think about election of GBA officers and board members. Gina, our current vice-president, and I are both running for re-election. We are also electing three directors. In order to vote, your dues have to be up to date by the date of the meeting. You are welcome to nominate yourself or someone you'd like to see run for any or all five of these offices. [Click here](#) to nominate yourself or someone else.

I'll see you at the end of September!

Bee Well,

Linda T

SIMPLER METHOD FOR MAKING OXALIC ACID VAPOR MORE EFFECTIVE

– by Jennifer Berry, UGA Bee Lab

There are three approved methods of applying oxalic acid (OA) that will kill mites, and will not harm bees or humans IF applied according to the directions. The three methods approved for use in honey bee colonies are trickle (dribble), vaporization (sublimation) and spraying (spraying). All three can be used on existing colonies, packages or swarms. The method that we have found that works best is the vaporization method in which the OA is heated until it vaporizes into a gas (sublime) (Figure 1). This is accomplished by placing the OA into the plate, and then connecting the metal wand or vaporizer to a battery (Figure 2). The plate then heats up, melting and vaporizing the acid. The vapor will permeate the hive and when it comes into contact with the mites, kills them.



(Figure 1) Oxalic Acid vaporization method.

All three of these methods will kill at least 90% or more of the mites in the colony/package if administered properly. We need to remove at least 90% of the mites for the treatment to be effective. Otherwise, mites and more importantly, viruses (which are the real culprit) will continue to reproduce and overwhelm the colony. However, this can only be achieved if the colony is void of capped brood causing the mites to be phoretic (crawling around on the frames or adult bees). If capped brood is present, then the majority of mites are under the protection of the wax cappings and will not be exposed to the OA. This is why applications are most effective when no brood is present.



(Figure 2) Oxalic Acid vaporized by attaching to a battery.

During the winter months, queens usually “shut down” or at least have slowed down brood production. This natural brood break is an easy opportunity for us to decrease mite loads, so we don’t want to miss our chance. However, what about now, today, this summer, when mite populations are on the rise (compromising the health of our colonies), yet colonies are full of brood? Reducing mite populations will only help our girls going into winter. Bees weakened by viruses enhanced by the mites will not live as long. Bees produced to survive the winter (winter bees) need to live longer than the summer bees. So, by reducing mite and virus loads now, we give our girls a fighting chance for winter survival.

Over the years, I’ve discussed a way to make a colony broodless by simply caging the queen. Well, caging a queen is not that simple. So, after serious thought, much pondering and contemplation, I’ve come up with a better, simplified method of getting a colony free of capped brood. Ok, actually it wasn’t completely my idea. Jay Hendrix, Master Beekeeper here in the state of Georgia, emailed me, asking a question that has proven to be a great solution. His question was; why not just exclude the queen in a super for 14 days, and then treat on day 21? Brilliant! Of course! So, here’s the plan of action to rid our girls of these nasty parasites and viruses.

1. Find the queen and exclude her in a super above the brood nest.
2. In the super with the queen, place one or two frames of drawn comb for her to lay in and fill the rest with honey or pollen frames, or frames with just foundation. By giving her frames that are undrawn or already filled with honey or pollen, it will inhibit her ability to lay a tons of eggs.

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SIMPLER METHOD FOR MAKING OXALIC ACID VAPOR MORE EFFECTIVE – (CONT'D)

3. 14 days later, remove the excluder, releasing the queen.
4. Check for queen cells below the excluder just in case the bees have produced any.
5. Remove frames above the excluder which contain brood and...
 - a. either sacrifice the brood by freezing the frames
OR
 - b. if multiple colonies are involved, transfer the brood frames with bees and make a “walk away” split, adding a queen cell or allowing the bees to make their own queen. Either way, you will then vaporize these colonies 21 days later.
6. Back to the original colonies, 21 days after excluding the queen (seven days after removing the excluder), vaporize colonies with OA at sundown when all the bees (and mites) are home from their foraging trips.

Why 14 days, 21 days, etc? It takes 21 days from egg to an emerging adult worker bee and it takes eight days from egg to capped brood. By breaking the brood cycle, we are able to take advantage of the time between when the egg is laid and the brood is sealed under the protective wax cap.

The mite enters the cell just prior to the larva being capped, so we need to catch the mite BEFORE she enters the cells to reproduce. This is why we treat when there is no capped brood, so all the mites will be exposed to the acid. By shutting down the queen for 14 days, there will be no capped brood on the day 21 when we treat with OA. However, there will be capped brood soon afterwards, so make sure to count the days properly.

In our area, the Piedmont region of Georgia, the best time to use OA is during the cold winter months (January) when hopefully the queen has “shut down” brood production. The next time would be six months later in mid to late July when we “shut down” the queen and force a brood break. Quick reminder, when using OA, all “human” consumable honey must be removed from the colony but usually by the end of July most honey flows have ceased in our region of Georgia.

Hope this helps. Take care of you and your bees.

Jennifer Berry
UGA Honey Bee Lab
Research Professional

Lafayette Honey Festival

– by *Darek Foti*

The **Lafayette HoneyBee Festival** had a huge turnout. The Welsh Honey Judges did an outstanding job in a bee-friendly area with great enthusiasm.

Here is my photography entry of a predator eating a honeybee abdomen on a Knock Out Rose in front of a hive. It won **3rd place**. I placed **first in Black Jar and light extracted honey** and had a **5th place in the molded candle** as well.

I would also like to recognize **Tim Doherty** at docshealinghives.org for everything they are doing for the Veterans and the encouragement to move forward.



Meet Maryann Frazier



Maryann Frazier is a senior extension agent for Penn State's College of Agricultural Science. She has been a champion of the honey bee throughout her career. She even made two movies in 2008 and 2009 to shine a light on the cause of honey bee survival. The first is a documentary called *Vanishing of the Bees*, narrated by Ellen Page. In 2009, another documentary called *Who Killed the Honey Bee?* was made and can be watched in its entirety online.



Meet Maryann Frazier

Maryann is very interested in the effects of pesticides on our bees and you can find numerous videos of [her talks on YouTube](#). She is also invested in beekeeping in Kenya where most of the hives are top bar hives in logs.

Now that I have your attention, I am excited to tell you that she is giving three talks at our fall meeting. On Thursday night at our speaker's dinner, she will give a talk entitled *Bee Dazzled* about how to spread the word in the community about the value of the honey bee we love. Then she will give two more talks during the conference.

Here are the descriptions she provided for the two conference talks:

Kenyan Bee "Havers"

Bees have inhabited East Africa for thousands of years. In Africa, humans first hunted bees and then learned to use hollow logs to provide nesting cavities for migratory swarms. Today 95% percent of Kenyan honey is still harvested from log hives. Is this because Kenyan beekeeping is undeveloped or does "keeping" bees in this way provide other advantages?

Gifts of the Hive: Making and Marketing Liquid Gold

Honey (and bees wax), is an amazing product and can yield a high price. But how do we keep bees healthy enough to make a crop? Once we have the honey (and wax) where and how can we creatively market these remarkable products? I'll share what I have learned in the past two years.

Do [register and come to our fall conference](#) to hear Maryann Frazier and all of our other great speakers.



Honeybee Conservancy's SPONSOR-A-HIVE

– by Kathy Bourn

Recently I shot a story for Channel 11, on the Honeybee Conservancy's Sponsor-A-Hive donations to two schools in Georgia. Thanks to a national program to help conserve the western honey bee, two Georgia schools are cracking open their very own honey bee hives.

Joey Konieczny at Drew Charter School in Atlanta and **Tiffany Abbott Fuller** at West End Elementary School in Rome, applied to the Honeybee Conservancy's Sponsor-A-Hive program. Each school received a complete 10 frame hive, suits and tools for students and a 3lb. package of Italian bees.

Drew Charter School already had an established beekeeping club and had partnered with Decatur beekeeper **Daniel Goodridge**. That helped them win the hive along with them demonstrating how they'll use the hive as a teaching tool. The club members manage their new colony, but Konieczny says he gets 10 to 20 requests a day from students wanting to come and see the bees.

On the last day of school and after a day of field events, West End E.S. LIVE streamed the hiving of their bees to every classroom in the school. Administrators and teachers helped give the bees their new home and provide running commentary on the "Breaking News" event.

The Honeybee Conservancy runs entirely on donations and places over 200 hives a year in schools, community gardens and urban farms through the Sponsor-A-Hive program.



TEAM BEEKEEPING PROGRAM



– by Barbara Gagnon

This is the 3rd in a series covering SOWEGA’s new program of team beekeeping.

We have two teams now that have suffered through weak hives and dead-outs and learned to recoup their losses. Both of those teams are up to five hives now. One team even harvested 90 pounds of honey and gave the wet supers back to their hives. These teams are checking their hives usually once a week.

Another team that started out with the mean, donated bees, has three strong colonies. They are making bees for sure. Their attempt at making splits didn’t work. The queens didn’t make it and the splits were recombined with the parent hive. We will see if they try again.

We have the advisor hives back up to snuff now. There will be no honey harvest from them but they are there for resources if needed by the teams.

to be addressed. Hopefully, that team will work with their hive soon and realize they can split it again. The last team which did have three healthy hives, lost one last month and now have a nice strong hive and a weak one. The advisors also looked at this hive. It will be lost if it doesn’t get some help soon.

The fourth team has two nice remaining hives after combining a dead-out. They harvested eight frames of honey just to give the queens laying room. They visit the hives two to three times a month.

We have the advisor hives back up to snuff now. There will be no honey harvest from them but they are there for resources if needed by the teams.

Of the two remaining teams, both are down on their hive count. The team that lost two hives and had a weakish surviving hive still has one hive left. The advisors checked it recently. It is full of brood and needs

The participants in this program are still enthusiastic and happy about what they are learning – especially the teams who are making bees or honey. At the monthly meeting, we ask each team to have a representative update the club on their experiences.



THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING! THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

In less than ninety days the GBA will meet at our fall conference and elect the president, vice president, and three directors for 2018-2019.

This is your statewide club and YOU have a very important decision to make; you must elect the leadership for the next year. Do you know someone who will make an excellent officer of the GBA, someone dedicated to beekeeping, our organization, and who has the foresight and leadership skills necessary to lead our hundreds of members into and through the next year?

Nominations take but a moment, and will last a year. [CLICK HERE](#) to nominate someone. Tell us who you think will make that great GBA officer. Give us the name, phone number and your reasons for nominating that person. Nominations close soon, don’t delay, click today!



Burr Comb



– by Rick Moore

Sometimes when doing inspections and splits you just run out of frames to replace the ones you're taking from a hive. What do you do? If you are like me, you probably leave the box short a frame or two and make a mental note to come back and replace that missing frame as soon as FedEx delivers the next shipment. Does that sound right? What happens if you forget? I'll show you what you already know; honey bees abhor empty space – they build burr comb if the space is larger than bee space. $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch; that's all they want open. You know that from your reading and your own experience. Now, back to me leaving a frame out.

Recently we did just that at **Dooly State Prison**, we ran out of frames, left an empty space and then forgot to come back and put a frame of foundation in the hive. The honey bees did just what Mother Nature programmed them to do, and filled that space with beautiful white wax comb. Nothing new there. What is different this time is they built the comb above the queen excluder. Because we had a top feeder inside an empty medium box over the queen excluder, the little architects got busy and built this roller coaster looking sculpture above the queen excluder.



CERTIFICATION LEVEL TESTING

at Lee Arrendale State Prison

– by Julia Mahood



BEEKEEPING
is the
new **BLACK**

On Tuesday, June 5, 2018, Jennifer Berry and Westley Hester from the UGA Bee Lab came to Lee Arrendale State Prison to administer testing

to eleven inmates in the beekeeping program. Lee Arrendale, located in Alto, Georgia, is a maximum security facility and the largest women's prison in the state, housing 1,400 to 1,700 inmates.

In October 2016, fifteen inmates at Arrendale passed the Certified test with flying colors. Several of these beekeepers have since been released, happy to have a new skill under their belts as they re-enter life on the "outside." Five of the first class of Certified beekeepers have been studying hard for the Journeyman test, a first for a prison in Georgia—or anywhere as far as we know.

I am thrilled to report that all the ladies passed the tests with flying colors, both the Certified and Journeyman! As anyone who has attempted the Journeyman exam knows, it's the toughest test out there, with an estimated 80% fail rate. The most difficult portion is the practical exam containing the zero fail questions about disease identification and insect identification—if you miss just one of these questions, you fail the whole shebang. All five of the new Journeyman beekeepers scored in the high 90s on the practical exam. Due to new Georgia Department of Corrections regulations we are no longer able to take photographs of the inmates, or publish their names, but I can tell you that there were many happy, tearful faces upon hearing the test results that afternoon.

One of the new Journeyman beekeepers said that folks on the outside had busy lives and it was probably easier for the inmates to find time to study. It's true that boredom in prison is an issue. These ladies haven't been bored this summer though, with managing nine colonies, catching swarms and coming up with ways to fulfill Public Service Credits, participation in the beekeeping program has given them a welcome respite from the monotony of prison life.



The outside public service and sub-specialty requirements for the Master level will be challenging to fulfill, but all five Journeyman beekeepers are determined to find a way.

"Beekeeping is the new Black" logo and design are Julia's. The Atlanta Magazine cover to the left, highlights the beekeeping program at the women's prison.

FROM THE BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE:

You are the most important part of choosing a Beekeeper of the Year. This is the highest state honor we bestow on a fellow beekeeper and it is because of you. You know and appreciate what this person has done. You nominate this person so he or she can be considered.

Put on your thinking caps, it is that time again! Who needs to be recognized for their service? Who has gone above and beyond? Check the list of past winners on the GBA website or last month's newsletter to verify your nominee was not a previous winner.

To make it even easier, there is a link in the same

B.O.Y. section on the state website. Fill in the boxes and hit send. It's that easy! Won't you nominate someone today? **Deadline is July 15.** This is a lifetime honor, and it starts with you.

If you have selected a nominee, [press this link](#) to complete your nomination.



Hi! I would like some ammunition for all my neighbors who are hiring the different businesses that spray for mosquitoes. I think that this was one of the reasons my hives last year did not make it through autumn. What are the specific laws around spraying insecticide? Thanks!

I have Mosquito spraying Neighbors!

– Priscilla Summers

[First, my usual disclaimer: I am not a licensed attorney. For specific legal advice, you should always consult with a licensed attorney from the jurisdiction in which your problem originated.]

I am unaware of any specific laws that provide any protection for, or regulation, in regard to the potential effects of mosquito spraying upon honeybees. However, as a general matter, the laws of negligence and civil liability would typically apply in a situation where a private company/contractor is hired to perform a certain task, and through their negligence, a third party (or their property) is damaged or injured. To prevail in any civil action in the United States a complaining party must be able to show two things: 1) the offending party had a legal duty to act, or refrain from acting; and 2) the offending party's action, or failure to act, damaged the complaining party in some legally quantifiable way. In lawyer terms, you've got to be able to show both liability and damages. The "damages" part of the equation is not complicated: what is the value of the lost honeybees? The quandary for most beekeepers facing these circumstances is the "liability" side of the equation.

For someone to incur liability in a legal sense, that individual must generally either be expressly aware of a duty to act, or refrain from acting in a certain way, or this duty must be so obvious that any reasonable person would understand that a given action is required, or prohibited, under those circumstances. It is difficult to establish that someone has a duty to act or refrain from some action if they do not have knowledge (notice) of the facts and circumstances that might give rise to potential liability. If you think someone is going to be spraying, say something to them, or better yet, send it to them in writing. **PUT THEM ON NOTICE.** Do the same thing to the contractor(s) doing the spraying. Let them know you have honeybees and where they are. Once they are on notice as to the presence of your hives, the argument that they have a duty to act reasonably in regard to the presence of your hives becomes much stronger.

In the world of legalities and liability, proof is everything. If you see a neighbor (or their contractor) spraying, make some notes – dates, times, locations, witnesses, etc. Ask questions of the neighbor and the contractor. What exactly are they spraying? Try to collect a sample if you can. Definitely collect samples of any dead bees, as well as samples of wax and pollen from affected hives. Document the local

weather conditions on the days there was spraying, especially wind speeds and directions. All those conversations with neighbors and spraying contractors...document them. Documentation can be in the form of notes, pictures, or video. Get witness accounts if you can (don't forget to get names and contact information). It doesn't have to be super neat or formal; it can be hand-scrawled on napkins or envelopes; but all good documentation should be contemporaneous, meaning document things as you observe them, or as soon thereafter as possible- don't wait until days or weeks later.

In some instances, one might have a duty to take reasonable steps to lessen or "mitigate" their losses or damages. Did you seal, cover up, or move your hives to protect them? Remember to document whatever steps you might have taken to protect your bees from pesticide spraying. Again, documentation is important here. Make some notes...take some pictures.

There's a fine line here between being a responsible beekeeper and being the crazy neighbor everyone on the block hates. Don't forget, there are countless local laws and ordinances that can impact the whole liability and damages discussion. If you have some real concerns, start with your local government. It might be Animal Control, Public Works, or Code Enforcement, but whoever it is with your local city or county government that handles the mosquito spraying for your community, will be able to give you some solid guidance as to where to start asking questions and getting answers.

[Again, nothing herein is offered as, intended to be, nor should be taken as legal advice. If you find yourself in the middle of a problem like this, the surest and best course of action is to immediately consult with a licensed, local attorney who is familiar with the local laws and ordinances of your community.]

Today's Guest Aunt Bee, Brutz English

If you have a honey bee related question for Aunt Bee, please send it to gbnewsletter@gmail.com.

Post-it

for Local
Club Presidents

PROVIDING EDUCATION TO YOUR MEMBERS

1. Have a **discussion before or after the meeting** with experienced beekeepers on hand to answer questions and lead discussions of issues with newer beekeepers.
2. Gilmer County beekeepers feature “**shorts**” by **experienced beekeepers** which are short talks of less than fifteen minutes on, for example, how to build a frame; how to remove a stinger; how to paint a stack of hive boxes. The presenter gets experience in giving a short talk and the members get the benefit of his/her knowledge.
3. Start a **hive inspection program**. Either using community garden hives or local beekeepers’ hives, set up a schedule when your members can participate in a group hive inspection. Every beekeeper has his/her little quirks that inform their inspection process, and the newer beekeeper can learn from going through a hive with a number of different inspectors.
4. Have a **panel discussion on topics of interest** to your club. Getting members to suggest topics is a great way to be sure the panel is a draw for the membership. Topics could cover any aspect of beekeeping: honey harvest, IPM, feeding bees, managing swarms, preparing for winter.
5. Put on a **short course** and **allow your own members to attend for the price of lunch** to keep up their knowledge and interest. Most groups have plenty of room for the members plus the paying newbees. This supports the ongoing education of your members, particularly the newer ones.
6. Put on **Saturday member-driven workshops** like how to identify a varroa problem in your hive (a varroa field day) or how to harvest honey.

– **Linda Tillman**
GBA President

Next Month...



The gnats are out, the mosquitoes are back, the heat index is over 100 degrees.

Welcome to summer in Georgia. For the August issue of *Spilling the Honey*, we’d like for you to show us how your hives are keeping cool, what are they finding to eat, and pictures, please send pictures of that golden, sticky, sweet substance you’ve been robbing from the hives.

See you in next month’s *Spilling the Honey*!



Need a speaker?



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.

CONFESSIONS OF A NEW BEEKEEPER

– by *Laura Nagel*

I am an exceedingly new beekeeper, having installed my first nuc on April 3, 2018. I had spent considerable time preparing what I thought was a lovely new home for the bees, but they appeared quite unappreciative of my efforts, and, while excited, I must admit to being a little worried as I went to bed that night. We had prepared by doing a great deal of reading from the classics as well as finding amazing material online and on YouTube. We started with two brood chambers, a bottom board, a feeder box with rafts, an inside cover and a copper-covered top, all mounted on an absolutely level riser. We have a half acre lot in a residential area in Gainesville, GA, so in addition to the routine beekeeping tools, we secured Benadryl and IM epinephrine (and syringe) and know how to administer it in case of emergency.

Right off the bat, the bees were just amazing to watch (and still are) as they came and went from the hive. We used a little cinnamon (which worked) for the few ants we saw hanging around. A couple of weeks later we “inspected” the hive, while the bees

“inspected” us. Lots and lots of brood and capped honey! We took away the feeder, added a queen excluder and a honey super. I did not space the super frames well, so the third time we opened the hive, we scraped the excess comb off the super and frames, and using gravity and cheesecloth, harvested over 1/2 cup of what I think is just lovely.

Since then, we’ve noticed queen bee cells and added another honey super. Although the bees seem active, we haven’t seen a swarm yet. Oh, yes, we added screened bottom and top boards, mostly for ventilation. During all our inspections, we’ve only seen one beetle and no moths.

I’m certain that the “old timers” are laughing their socks off right now and that’s OK as long as they share their wisdom with me! I’m flying by the seat of my pants, so to speak! I plan to attend the varroa mite workshop in a couple of weeks in Gillsvillen; hope to meet you then!

Until then, my ears are open for ideas, suggestions, and wisdom you’d like to share!

Honey for Sale!



Steve Page of Coweta Beekeepers has his honey bottled, labeled and ready for market. How’s your honey coming along?



Sydney Moon’s image of a honey bee on a Sunflower.

Honey Bees and Swimming Pools

At this time of year when school is out and the kids are all at the area swimming pools, we get frequent calls from concerned citizens who want to keep the bees out of their pools. One recent call included the comment, "The children are getting stung all the time."

What can the beekeeper do? Be sure to provide a water supply for your bees. An immediate way to address this is to put that Boardman feeder you bought when you first got your bees onto the front of each hive. Fill the jar with water to which you add a teaspoon or two of Chlorox. Hopefully the bees will get their water at home rather than frequent the swimming pool.

What can the beekeeper tell the concerned citizen?

1. **Educate the children not to swat** at or splash water on the bees. The bees are not anxious to sting the kids and then die. But swatting at the bees makes the bee feel threatened and then indeed she may sting.
2. **Invite a local beekeeper to give a talk** to the kids by the pool.



3. **There's no way to know where the bees come from**, so blaming a nearby beekeeper is not accurate nor effective. There are tons of beekeepers all over the state and all of their bees need water. Better to work together than to be angry and blaming.
4. **Provide an alternate water source** for the bees near the pool like a plant saucer filled with river rocks and water that is chlorinated.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!

According to Ann Withington, "In post-revolutionary America...a hive symbolized a society working together for the good of the whole, whatever the nature of the whole might be." These engravings depict women carrying bee skeps and suggest that in the New Eden women would be an integral and affirmative part of the new democratic order. ...Often the hive dominates the center of the page."

— From *Bees In America*, Tammy Horn



YOUNG HARRIS, REVISITED

Thank you everyone who sent in photos from Young Harris.



(above) Steve Allom achieved Journeyman certification. Dan Long sent in the image of Zoe Fortuin at the Low Country Boil (right), and the toolbox workshop (above right).



(above) Steve Esau and Gina Gallucci at YH.



(right) Linda Tillman has some fun with the local sculpture.

IN SYMPATHY

We regret to inform the membership but longtime member and volunteer **Mike Copeland** of the **Coweta Beekeepers Association** has passed away.

Funeral arrangements were handled by McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, Newnan, GA 770-253-4580

Those wishing to provide a meal for the family please contact Karen Torbush who is coordinating at 770-927-0077.

Should you wish to send a note of comfort please mail to:



Mrs. Pat Copeland
1071 Luthersville Road
Luthersville, GA 30251



CLUB MEETINGS

A **BIG** thank you to the 20 clubs who submitted their information on the wufoo form this month. Next month we'd like to see ALL GBA clubs listed with their events and speakers. **Club Presidents, please [click here to fill out this form](#), for next month.**

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, July 2, 2018		Carmen_K9@Yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, July 17, 2018	Mary Cahill-Roberts	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, July 12, 2018	Steven Page; Raising queens and making splits.	PickensBeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909		Thursday, July 26, 2018	Member Round Table Discussion	Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 17, 2018		arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 10, 2018	Marguerite Matherne; Busy as a Bee: How do Bees collect so much pollen?	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 9, 2018		bedrebb@aol.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2d Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, July 12, 2018		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, July 18, 2018		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, July 9, 2018		Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 10, 2018	Panel discussion on harvesting honey	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, July 19, 2018		sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802		Monday, Aug 6, 2018	To be announced	tnorman@augustaga.gov	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, July 9, 2018		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, July 9, 2018		steve@cowetahoney.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 24, 2018		thezechmans@yahoo.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lanier Technical College, Winder-Barrow Campus 965 Austin Rd Winder, GA 30680	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 2, 2018		EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, July 12, 2018		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	City of Cumming Parks and Recreation Center, 427 Pilgram Mill Rd Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, July 26, 2018	Q&A with Panel of Club Experts	baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Rd, Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 17, 2018		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Henry County Parks & Recreation Office at Heritage Park Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 10, 2018		hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	JULY MEETING ONLY: Putnam County Extension Service, 663 Godfrey Road, Eatonton, GA.	3rd Monday, 6:30pm	Thursday, July 19, 2018	Rose Ann Fielder: How to use wax to make candles. Plus club HONEY SHOW	mlacksen@gmail.com	Hancock

(continued on next page)

CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

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Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, July 5, 2018	Jennifer Tsuruda PhD, How to prevent a pesticide kill. 6:30pm, coffee, snacks, etc.	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, July 24, 2018		berlinbee87@outlook.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, July 5, 2018	To be announced.	ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 17, 2018	Linda Tillman, Preparing Your Entries for the Honey Show	metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, GA 30512	2nd Tuesday	Tuesday, July 10, 2018	Weather and bees are not matching up. How do I adjust to keep my bees alive?	abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agricultural Center 555 Monroe Ave # 50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, July 12, 2018	Tommy Mealer: queens	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday			ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			beecolson@gmail.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 16, 2018	Carol Williamson; different hive arrangements, connections to research findings of Cornell's Dr. Tom Seeley.	joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132		Monday, July 9, 2018		victor@makinhoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Rm, 245 East Ave, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 9:30 am	Saturday, July 7, 2018	Devon Kurtz: Honey Extraction	polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223		Thursday, July 19, 2018		potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center in the Parks of Chehaw Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, July 12, 2018	Brian Drebber, comparing hive styles (emph. on the AZ hive) and general beekeeping	info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building, 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, July 16, 2018		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 3, 2018		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 9, 2018	Cyndi Ball: Treasures of the Hive	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 9, 2018		tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Ag Building 856 Vulcan Materials Rd Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, July 16, 2018	Honey Extraction or Mites	neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, July 17, 2018		waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, July 23, 2018	Tom Rearick: How a Colony Thinks.	2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia

We will host a workshop with Steve Page on Thursday, July 12, 4:00pm, at the ABA Club Apiary at Talking Rock Nature Preserve, Carnes Mill Rd, Talking Rock, GA. Steve will be demonstrating notching to encourage queen cell production and other sustainable beekeeping practices.

Appalachian Beekeepers of Georgia will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 7:00pm, at the Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA. Our guest speaker will be Steve Page who will speak about a simple way to raise queens and make splits. This simple method does not require special tools, skills or equipment. First-year beekeepers can successfully raise queens with this method. Raising queens enables a beekeeper to become sustainable.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

In June we had our annual picnic, but this time at a new larger location, because our club has continued to grow this year. We had plenty of good eats and especially great desserts, even a few with sweet honey! We accidentally had the best weather ever with no rain and the temperatures in the 70s. Many of our new beekeepers attended and asked their usual great questions about beekeeping. It really keeps you on your toes. Thanks to everyone that planned the picnic and especially for the late night clean up.



Next month we will have Marguerite Matherne from Georgia Tech as our speaker. She plans to present, "Busy as a Bee: How do bees collect so much pollen?". This is an expanded version of the presentation she did for the GBA Fall meeting last year. We are excited to hear her speak.



Many of our members have buttoned up their hives and moved them to north Georgia for the Sourwood honey flow. This year looks to be a bumper crop and we can't wait to retrieve it in July. Also, many members have made their first harvest and are finding the honey to be very light this year as compared to previous years. Does anyone have any clue as to why this is happening?

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers in Columbus, Ga, in association with Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, held our first ever Jr Beekeeper classes. We had one class each month of April, May, and June. We had four to five students per class in attendance and had a ball! (Our class was modeled after the class my wife and I attended at the Blue Heron Wildlife Preserve, with Holly Bayendor.) We had a powerpoint presentation, made finger puppets, built a frame, took the kids out to the bee yard for a hands-on inspection and showed them how to extract honey.

They left with a certificate of completion for our Jr Beekeeper class. The certificate fit perfectly into the deep frame that the kids built! They also left with a two oz honey bear and a reminder card of the class.



Forsyth County Beekeepers

Disease and Disorder Day, July 14 – Bill Dunn has hosted this class for many years, and together with other experienced keepers/mentors, numerous questions are answered and misconceptions are corrected. We will look at disorders of the hive, and learn how to correct them. We will also discuss diseases, and how to prevent and combat them.

The cost is \$10 cash or check (made to Forsyth Beekeepers Club, or FBC) for members. Payment will be collected at the class. [Sign up HERE!](#)

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Coastal Empire Beekeeper Association (CEBA)

During Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association's honey harvest, Nikki Palmer and her daughter were thrilled to learn how to uncap honey frames and use a three-frame centrifuge extractor. At his home, Jeremy Herrington harvested six gallons of honey from his two hives that are both less than a year old. One was a late October 2017 swarm, and the other was a March swarm. In the CEBA apiary, located within Oatland Island Wildlife Center, there was some non-hipster bearding on a Team Barn Owl hive.

(Below left: Bearding on the Team Barn Owl hive. Below right: Nikki Palmer extracting, and Bottom left: Picking wax. Bottom right: Jeremy Herrington harvest.)



Lake Country Beekeepers

Lake Country Beekeepers Association announce a **meeting location change for July, 2018, ONLY**. The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at the **Putnam County Extension Service, located at 663 Godfrey Road, Eatonton, GA**. Our speaker will be Rose Anne Fielder, who will speak on "how to use wax to make candles," and we will hold our club honey show.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

Jennifer Tsuruda, PhD, (right) Apiculture Specialist and Extension Entomologist at Clemson University will talk to the Lake Hartwell



Beekeepers Association on Thursday, July 5th. She'll discuss what she's learned from studying how to close up hives to help prevent a pesticide kill.

LHBA meets at the First Baptist Church of Lavonia (95 Bowman St. Lavonia 30553) at 7pm. All are welcome at 6:30pm for coffee, snacks and blathering about bees.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club



At our June meeting, Bee Club and Board member Cory Momany (left) gave an in depth review of the process of extracting honey, which included bringing all the equipment needed with an explanation for each.

Walton County Bee Association

At our last meeting we had Bobby Chaisson of Blue Sky Honey, who spoke on "Honey Extraction, Packaging and Retailing of Honey".

Next month we will have our Summer Salad Social in lieu of a regular meeting and our calendar year starts over in August with officer elections.

"Going to check the bees with Pops"
Photo by Sidney Moon.



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association had their annual picnic on May 12, 2018, at "The Utter Place" at Heritage Baptist Church in Douglasville. We had a really good turn out with good food and had fun playing games.

On May 19th, the club participated in the annual Taste of Douglasville. We had a observation hive on hand and we had a Kids Corner for children.

On June 2nd, the club had a booth at the annual Douglasville Hydrangea Festival with an observation hive. The West Georgia Beekeepers Association won overall for the Educational Exhibit of Excellence at the Hydrangea Festival Flower Show.

June 25, 2018, we held a round table discussion and members shared gadgets they have developed to aid in their beekeeping.

Our July 23rd meeting, Tom Rearick, UGA Master Beekeeper, will be our guest speaker and present "How a Colony Thinks" with a question and answer session to follow.



Spilling *The* Honey

AUGUST 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteerism is the heart of any organization like GBA. A small core group of volunteers plan each of the annual meetings. Since 2014 that group has included **Julia Mahood** and me and in the last two years, **Gina Gallucci**. We meet, talk and plan weekly to make sure the meeting goes well. But we can't do it by ourselves.

This year we are having the fall meeting in Forsyth County and the **Forsyth County Beekeepers** are stepping up as volunteers to help the meeting go well. Their members are baking cookies for the Cookie and Ice Cream Social on Friday night. They are lining up volunteers to help register people as they arrive for the conference and to help with the voting process as we elect officers and board members. Because they are the local club in the area, we may need even more help from them. This kind of willingness and energy will make the meeting special, but also illustrates how volunteer energy makes this organization run.

The whole conference is dependent on volunteer energy. **Brutz** puts tons of energy into making sure the honey show goes well. Ahead of the conference, he writes articles for the newsletter and talks to every bee club he attends about the importance of participating in the honey show.

Harvest Hoffman, our webmaster, has uploaded numerous changes to our web site to promote the conference and **Holly Bayendor** has worked for hours on the program that will be printed and up on the website as well. All of this is volunteer effort and sometimes has to be done in a huge hurry.

All of our officers and directors are preparing for various responsibilities at the meeting. There are Board Meeting reports to give (each chairperson is supposed to report on his/her committee and their progress). Your local club presidents will come early on Friday morning to the breakfast gathering of all local club presidents with the GBA officers. The purpose of this volunteer time is to share ideas about how to improve the functioning of local clubs and to continue our work to strengthen the connection between local clubs and the GBA.

At the conference, volunteers will be helping sell raffle tickets for the wonderful raffle items (many donated by Rossman Apiaries). Some will be selling GBA shirts. If you have an interest in helping with these efforts, [contact Gina](#).

The fall conference is going to be great. Our main speakers will be educating us on a variety of subjects. Each of the "keynote" speakers will give his/her talk in the ballroom to everyone attending the conference. Then we will also have the opportunity to hear breakouts on subjects from learning to be a commercial queen rearing beekeeper to how to do a split in your own backyard. To see the list of speakers and topics, [click here](#).

If you haven't registered, do so now! And plan to join your beekeeping friends at dinner on Thursday night after the GBA Board meeting to hear **Maryann Frazier** speak on "Bee Dazzled."

Bee Well,

Linda T

Meet Geoff Williams



At our GBA Fall Conference, you'll have two opportunities to hear Geoff Williams of the Auburn Bee lab.

Geoff grew up in Canada and has studied in Nova Scotia, Minnesota, Arizona, and Switzerland (I do know that two of those are states and not countries!). He is the first faculty member in 145 years to study honey bees and pollinator health at Auburn University!

Geoff gives a really funny talk about his rehab efforts to bring the Auburn Bee Lab back to life. He will not be giving that talk at GBA (I heard him at a local MABA meeting), but if you want to read more about his journey, **Jennifer Berry** wrote an article about him in *Bee Culture*.

Geoff is very interested in parasites and in honey bee health. He will be speaking about both at GBA. His talk to the whole conference is ***Bees and BMPs (Best Management Practices)***. On Saturday he will give a breakout called ***When Parasites and Pesticides Collide***.

Geoff is an entertaining as well as very knowledgeable speaker. If you haven't registered for the meeting so you can hear him in person, [click here](#).

WANTED: BEEKEEPERS FOR A NEW BEE CLUB

– by Doug Carter

My name is **Doug Carter** and I'm a first year beekeeper and a new GBA member. I am very interested in growing a local club for the multi-county area around **Ware County** in SE Ga. I am having a hard time locating local beekeepers to get the word out to determine interest. If you live in the multi-county area around **Ware, Brantley, Coffee, Appling, Bacon, Pierce, Adkinson, Wayne, Long and Jeff Davis** counties, please contact me. We have a small group going already and want to invite any of you in these counties or surrounding areas to join us. We are working on by-laws and meeting the other requirements to be a **new GBA club**. Join us by [contacting me](#).

CRUSH & Strain



– by Kathy Bourn

I really like harvesting my honey using the crush and strain method but the crushing was getting to be a strain on my hands. This year I treated myself to a fruit press to do most of the work for me. I'm happy with the results.

I have foundationless comb so I cut it off the frames or bars with a steak knife, let it fall into the press, and crank it down. The honey oozes out with ease. I end up with a cake of wax and not much to clean up. Couldn't be sweeter.



Photos by Kathy Bourn, of Lake Hartwell Beekeepers. Top: The equipment set-up. Far right: the foundationless comb. Right: The crank crushing the comb. Below: Honey emerges through the strainer and falls into the filters and bucket below.





THE ROLE OF A CLUB SECRETARY

Any group or organization runs more smoothly when it has a staff that is willing to selflessly give of themselves, their time and energy. Many times people will step forward to assume these roles, but often times, leadership may have to seek out just the right people to fill these positions.

A Club Secretary is one such role in both the GBA and in your local clubs.

A Club Secretary will act in the following capacities:

- Serve the membership as a support role to the President.
- Official recorder of club business, motions and votes as they affect the structure and future of the organization. This typically occurs in a Board Meeting and Membership Business Meeting environment.
- Information liaison to the membership. This could be a task as simple as preparing an email at the request of the President or other officers.
- Often times as Club Secretary, you may be notified by the President or others of situations where

a “Get Well” or “Sympathy” card is exactly what someone might need without expecting it.

- Giving assistance to “Guest Speakers” is vitally important; there may be transportation requirements, meal preferences or special requests. Being one of the “faces” of your organization will certainly give speakers the positive experience that they deserve and a reason to think and speak well of their time spent with your group.
- Any special task at the request of the President or Vice President. This could take the form of assisting with membership meetings, elections, or committee assignments.

Any person that you are able to identify as possessing the qualities that will help the leadership achieve their goals for the group will almost guarantee a better experience for the officers and the members of the club. Being a member and being involved is all a part of beekeeping. Enjoy it!

– **Derrick Fowler**
GBA Secretary

Next Month...



Every beekeeper will eventually sell honey, it's a fact of life. I mean you can't eat all the honey your bees produce, right?

On every bottle you sell you proudly display a label. For next month, send pictures of your labels. We want to see everything from the plain handwritten labels all the way up to the fancy 'store bought' kind. Share with our friends and neighbors, be proud of your honey and the label.

Let's see what you have! Send your label pictures to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

TEAM BEEKEEPING PROGRAM



– by *Barbara Gagnon*

We are in our fourth month with the new Team Beekeeping program at the club bee yard.

The teams still seem to be learning and enjoying. We hope to hold a meeting in the near future to critique the program to identify any improvements we can make. This is sort of a pilot program so there is room for change. The participants have been at it long enough now to make suggestion and say what is and is not working for them.

Team progress:

- A.** After making splits to have five hives, a re-queen and some brood manipulation, they have five robust hives that are ready for equalizing and possibly a honey harvest to make room for the golden-rod flow.
- B.** Has come back after losing two hives. The one hive was split and given a new super. There are now two good hives one of which may provide a split into a third again.
- C.** Was down to a strong hive and a weak queenless hive. The weak hive was given a brooded-up super containing eggs from an adviser's hive. Both hives are now queen right. This team has set up a regular schedule now for working the hives.

- D.** This team started out with the “mean bees”. They had three really strong hive and have recently made a split, giving them four in total. The temperament of the hives is greatly improved.
- E.** Still has two strong hives after the small honey harvest.
- F.** These are the gentlest bees in the yard. Three very strong hives gave almost 90 pounds of honey and two splits. The splits failed and were recombined with the parent hives.

The advisor hives have two strong hives and one medium strength hive. These hives have been getting used a lot. They donated a brooded-up super to a team hive and have endured seven sessions of summer camp kids suiting up for a hands-on bee experience.

I feel safe in saying now that this program has been a success.



Photo Gallery!



Sarah Price shares an image of her Queen Bee.



Andy Marcus shares this image of his top bar hive on a hot July day in Dahlonega, GA.

Who? Who? Whoooo?



Who is the **Beekeeper of the year?** Look at some of our past winners and you will get an idea of the kind of person who might be chosen for this honor.

- 2017 Brutz English
- 2016 Bill Owens
- 2015 Roseanne Dorn
- 2014 Bear Kelley
- 2013 Bruce Morgan
- 2012 Cindy Hodges
- 2011 Fred Rossman
- 2010 Robert Brewer
- 2009 Keith Fielder
- 2008 Jim Harris
- 2007 Martha Kiefer
- 2006 Cindy Bee
- 2005 Jennifer Berry
- 2004 Durant Warwick
- 2003 Bob Binnie
- 2002 Carl Webb
- 2001 JM Sikes
- 2000 Evelyn Williams
- 1996 PN Williams
- 1995 Dr. Keith Delaplane
- 1993 Virginia Webb
- 1992 Jessie McCurdy
- 1984 Reg Wilbanks

These are people who serve, teach, mentor.

They are problem solvers. They hold offices often times at local or state and sometimes national levels.

They are consistently givers of their time, knowledge and often resources to help others learn beekeeping. It is an unwritten GBA tradition not to award Beekeeper of the Year to someone more than once. They are an inspiration to those that surround them. They may have done something significant that affects us at local, state or national levels. They are bee advocates that promote the industry.

If you look around you you will see these people are still active GBA members. Still giving of themselves to the industry. They are beekeeper champions.

Who will you nominate? Who do you know that is a champion?

Who will it be this year? The Beekeeper of the Year will be announced at the Cookie and Ice Cream Social on Friday night at the GBA Conference.

Fall Honey Show – a new class

For all of our varietal honey producers out there, we have a new class just for you in this year's **Fall Honey Show!** For the first time ever, the GBA is offering a varietal honey category as part of our annual honey contest. A varietal, or monofloral, honey is simply a honey that is harvested from one floral source, such as orange blossom or blackberry. So, for our

sourwood and basswood producers in the north, to the tupelo and gallberry producers in the south, and all of the tulip poplar, cotton, black locust, and other varietals in between, bring your best varietal honeys, and show off some of the most delicious honeys the state of Georgia has to offer! Rules for the GBA Fall honey show can be found at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Georgia/honeyShows>.

Fall Conference Vendors

We are proud to announce our generous sponsors for the Fall GBA Conference: Mann Lake, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company, Blue Ridge Honey Company, Brushy Mountain Bee Farm and Rossman Apiaries. These fine vendors are bringing their best beekeeping equipment and a great deal of expertise to share. They are financially supporting our move to the wonderful **Forsyth Conference Center**.

We encourage our members to support these companies with your business both at the conference and in pre-conference orders.

Mann Lake

www.mannlakeltd.com

Pigeon Mountain Trading Company

www.pigeonmountaintrading.com

Blue Ridge Honey Company

www.blueridgehoneycompany.com

Brushy Mountain

www.brushymountainbeefarm.com

Rossman Apiaries

www.gabees.com



Clover: not grass!

The Pollinator Stewardship Council publishes a monthly newsletter called **Pollinator News**. In the recent issue was an article about Grandma Jo's White Clover Show. **Grandma Jo** has gone onto the airways in Wisconsin suggesting homeowners transition from a grass lawn to clover lawn

to help feed pollinators. Grandma Jo, a bee advocate, educator, and writer, teaches children and adults about the value of pollinators.

To view the videos of **Grandma Jo's White Clover Show**, go to [this link](#).

CLUB MEETINGS

Club Presidents, please [click here to fill out this form](#), for next month. Do you have a brand new club that would like to be affiliated with the GBA and added to this page? Please review [the requirements](#).

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, August 6		Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, August 21	Q&A on Mite Management	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, August 9	Round table discussion about honey bees	PickensBeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909		Thursday, August 23		Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 21		arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 14	Christine Fortuin; introduction to the wild bees of GA	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, August 13		bedrebbber@aol.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2d Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, August 9		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, August 15		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, August 13		Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 14	David Kelton; fall maintenance	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, August 16		spposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802		Monday, August 6	Q&A session with DeRossie and Natasha Delaigle owner D's Bees Waynesboro, Ga	tnorman@augustaga.gov	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, August 13		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, August 13		steve@cowetahoney.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 28		thezechmans@yahoo.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lanier Technical College, Winder-Barrow Campus 965 Austin Rd Winder, GA 30680	1st Monday, 7:00pm (see next column for special event date and time)	Saturday *August 18* National Honey Bee Day 11 am - 2 pm	We will co-host a picnic with Oglethorpe County Bee Club on Aug. 18, complete with a Honey Contest and Raffle, at the Farm Bureau in Crawford from 11 am-2 pm.	EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, August 9		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, August 23	Marguerite Matherne; When Bees Brush Their Hair	baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 21		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Henry County Parks & Recreation Office at Heritage Park Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 14		hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Monday, 6:30pm	Thursday, August 16	Steve Nofs; Experiences and Safety Tips Inside an Apiary	mlacksen@gmail.com	Hancock

(continued on next page)

CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

Club Presidents, please [click here to fill out this form](#), for next month. Do you have a brand new club that would like to be affiliated with the GBA and added to this page? Please review [the requirements](#).

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, August 2	Varroa Day Recap with Summer Ice Cream Social; LHBA members and “new-bees” bring their questions, answers and ideas.	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, August 28		berlinbee27@outlook.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, August 2	Bruce Morgan; Lessons Learned in Beekeeping	ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 21	Barry Brosi of Emory University	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, GA 30512	2nd Tuesday	Tuesday, August 14		abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agricultural Center 555 Monroe Ave # 50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, August 9	Club purchased Apivar pickup	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday	Monday, August 13		ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm	Thursday, August 30		beecolson@gmail.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm (see next column for special event this month)	Saturday *August 18* National Honey Bee Day 11 am-2 pm	We will co-host a picnic with the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association on Aug. 18, complete with a Honey Contest and Raffle	joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132		Monday, August 13		victor@makinhoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Rm, 245 East Ave, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 9:30 am	Saturday, August 4	Randy Rolen; Phermones in the Hive	polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223		Thursday, August 16	To be announced	potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center in the Parks of Chehaw Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, August 9	Open discussion on general beekeeping; beginner topics; teambuilder program	info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, August 20		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 7		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, August 13	Cory Momany; Honey Bee Nutrition	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, August 13	Derick E Forester; Honey Harvest	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, August 20	Honey tasting; Award the 2018 Best Honey in Troup County.	neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, August 21	Officer elections. We are asking each member to offer a beekeeping tip or trick.	waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, August 27	Alan Bradd, of Sweetwater Creek Honey Farm; Varroa, pests and winter preparation	2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia

In July we were fortunate to have **Steve Page** come to Jasper for both a workshop at our club apiary and a very applicable presentation for our meeting. Steve demonstrated notching to encourage queen cell production, discussed the advantages of producing late summer queens for going into winter and the value of having a break in brood production to decrease mite populations.

On day seven, we followed-up to the notching done at the workshop and the results were positive. There were capped queen cells on two frames.

Our club is very fortunate to have a club member who is a local commercial beekeeper that has contributed a nuc full of bees and a mated queen for our monthly raffle the last two months. Both months we raised enough in the raffle to pay for our speakers. He is very generous, but modest and prefers to remain that way.

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Our July speaker was **Marguerite Matherne** from Georgia Tech. We are so fortunate to have local universities that are researching the honeybee and are willing to share their studies with our local clubs. Marguerite had an outstanding presentation about the mechanics of the honeybee and specifically discussed the task of collecting and transporting pollen from the flower to the hive. This talk was greatly expanded from her talk at GBA in the Fall of 2017. The photography and videos were very impressive. If you have not heard her speak about her research, we highly recommend you look her up and book her. It is somewhat of a technical presentation, but fairly easy to follow.

Next month we have **Christine Fortuin**, a PhD student from UGA, sharing her knowledge about, "An Introduction to the Wild Bees of Georgia". She will also touch base about the African Honey bee and what she learned while during research. How many times has someone asked you to identify a bee? This presentation should give us a handy guide to help us distinguish the species and help us spread to the information to our friends.

The Sourwood flow is mostly over in North Georgia and the harvest and extracting is underway. Many of our club members made the trek to the mountains to collect this liquid gold. It's a lot of work, but hopefully the rewards are worth the effort!

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA)

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association president **Greg Stewart**, and **Cynthia Clavey** cleaned out a third hive that collapsed this year due to small hive beetles. The bees fought hard to keep the center of brood frames untouched, but the battle was lost.



Top: Small Hive Beetles won the battle for this colony, the larvae can be seen here. Bottom: Bees built comb on the underside of this screened bottom board.

During CEBA's Second Saturday apiary workshop, Greg demonstrated the alcohol wash technique for counting mites.



One group discovered their bees were building comb with brood on the underside of the hive bottom board, so they moved it to on top of the brood box and added a new bottom board. **Team Barn Owl** split a hive, which easily had 75,000+ bees.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers

The Lake Country Beekeepers offered speakers and educational events during June and July. At the June regularly scheduled meeting, **Keith Fielder** offered a Honey Flavors and Pairings presentation to the membership. There are over 300 different types of honey in the United States. The human palette senses 5 tastes: bitter, sour, sweet, salty and 'umami'. Blended honey should attain flavors characteristic of these 5 tastes. Coolness and astringency are the flavor sensations experienced when tasting honey. See the *Honey Varietals Found in Georgia* chart, below.

Varietal	Flavor	Pairings
blackberry	blackberry (sweet) with note of bitterness	good with vanilla flavors, champagne, chocolate and fruit
clover	sweet & mild buttery	blends in well for cooking or baking
cotton	mild flavor, tastes like crystallize sunshine	good table honey and for baking, good with hard cheeses and base for creamed honey
gallberry	deep rich flavor "a wang" thick and aromatic	perfect table honey, also for baking, good with cheeses and wine and on a hot biscuit
holly	perfume like	fruits, ice cream, pastry and soft cheeses
kudzu	grape-like almost 'meaty' flavor with bitter note, purple in color	fruit and most cheeses
privet	citrus hint with bitter note	blends well with other light flavored honey, esp. sumac
sourwood	queen of honey, buttery-vanilla-caramel w spicy note of allspice or licorice	meats and cheeses, good on waffles and pancakes, and good for making mead
sumac	mild with heavy caramel & vanilla note ~cane syrup, has a tart finish	rich desserts w/ chocolate and nuts, also pancakes, waffles and ice cream
tupelo	buttery, fruity and smooth in texture	good for baking, and with Blue, Stilton and robust cheeses
yellow poplar	medium to full body, aromatic and spicy	with strong cheeses (blue cheese) and for baking

On Saturday, June 16th, an all day Varroa Workshop was offered by **Brett Nolan** and **Nicholas Weaver** at Morgan Apiaries in Sparta, GA. Brett and Nicholas are trained and experienced beekeepers through the UGA Bee Lab. Their presentation and in-the-hive demonstrations offered biology, pathology, testing and treatment options for Varroa. A group of over 30 beekeepers gained knowledgeable about Varroa and the options the beekeeper has to help our bees combat this parasite. Other bee clubs are offering this Varroa Workshop and it is program worth attending.

At our July meeting, **Rose Anne Fielder** offered a program on Rendering and Crafting Beeswax. Rose Anne is 2015 Beekeeper of the Year recipient and LCBA treasurer (and GBA too) for many years, and has many Honey Show prizes for her beeswax products. Her tips covered cleaning the cappings, melting and cleaning the wax, straining debris and using molds.

The 2nd Annual LCBA Honey Show was held at the July meeting. Thanks to our Welsh Honey Judges, **Keith Fielder** and **Kevin Baker**. Each entry received feedback from our judges. Entries included: Black Jar, Light Category/Extracted, Medium Category/Extracted, Dark Category/Extracted and Novice. The Best in Show was awarded to **Shelly Young** of Eatonton. This contest has become a popular event for our members.



Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Assoc.

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association invites all to our *Chattahoochee Mountain Fair Honey Show* on September 8th, 2018.



Need a warmup for the GBA Fall Honey Show or the Georgia National Fairgrounds show in Perry? This is your chance! Certified Welsh **Honey Judge Gail Dean** will be officiating. There's some tough competition at this local show so bring your best! \$100 to Best of Show and Black Jar winners! \$20 entry fee for non-club members.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club



On Monday, July 16th, Oglethorpe County Bee Club Secretary **Carol Williamson** gave a presentation entitled, "Two deep, or not two deep, that is the question: Strategies for choosing the right wood ware". She covered the pros and cons of using two deeps versus a deep and a medium for working and wintering bees in the Southeast.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Forsyth County Beekeepers

Touring Blue Ridge Honey Company:



The club and many guests had a great time touring Bob Binnie's **Blue Ridge Honey Company** facility. Those that attended got to see the inner workings of a true commercial honey operation and speak with a local commercial beekeeper with over 30 years of experience.

We are all very grateful for **Mike Conner** setting this up for us, and appreciative of the time **Bob Binnie** took to show us around and answer all of our questions. Bob has always been so generous of his time and expertise, and I would encourage other clubs to try to coordinate a time to go visit this wonderful facility. Perhaps clusters of clubs can go together and get to know neighboring beekeepers in the area!

Disease and Disorder Day:



We had a great turnout for this class. Students were able to see and discuss many diseases and disorders of the hive, including varroa and the effects of the viruses they carry, nosema, and foul brood. Multiple strategies were

shared and covered, including preventative and reactive measures. Many thanks to **Nicholas Weaver**, **Shelli Godfrey**, and **Butch Shelton** for leading us thru some very confusing topics, and a special thanks to **Bill Dunn** for teaching and hosting. Many clubs offer similar courses to discuss ways to best prevent problems in the colony. Even if you've kept bees for a while, these classes are wonderful to take to brush up on knowledge, and hear about new or improved strategies. Try to make it a priority to attend one near you when you hear about them.

Tri-County Beekeepers

Tri-County Beekeepers' Varroa field day was a great success. Fifty-five people attended the class; some driving as far as three hours away to attend. It was a great day of instruction by **Brett Nolan**, **Nicholas Weaver** and **Dan Long**. Students received both classroom instruction and hands on learning in our club bee yard.

In August, we will have **Cory Momany** from the University of Georgia joining us at our regular meeting to talk about Honey bee Nutrition.



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS



Featuring the
Annual
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Best in Show prize
\$250

**FALL
MEETING
2018**

September 27-29
CUMMING, GEORGIA

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Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!

Keynote Speakers



Maryann Frazier: For 27 years, Maryann has worked at Penn State and been responsible for honey bee extension in Pennsylvania. Her recent work focused on understanding the impacts of pesticides on pollinators. In addition she has worked with Kenyan researchers to understand East African honey bees and help beekeepers become more productive.



Jerry Hayes, a longtime writer of the *Classroom* column in ABJ, has now retired from Monsanto. He joined the agrochemical company shortly after they acquired Beeologics, an Israeli company that was pioneering RNAi technology to immunize honey bees against specific viruses. While at Monsanto, Jerry strove to inform beekeepers about the dangers of varroa, emphasizing the impacts this destructive parasite has on colony health. Before he joined Monsanto, Hayes ran Florida's Apiary Inspection Section.



Izzy Hill is a researcher and educator of Integrated Pest Management tactics for the management of pests to honey bees. Her primary area of interest is in better understanding the efficacy, proper use, and cost efficiencies of various pest treatments for small hive beetle and Varroa mites.



Juliana Rangel was born in Colombia. Juliana obtained her education at the University of California, San Diego (B.S.), Cornell University (Ph. D.), and North Carolina State University (NSF Postdoctoral Fellow). She is Associate Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University working on projects related to honey bee health.



Geoff Williams was born and bred in Canada, he experienced his first bee sting at the ripe age of 23. He has been hooked ever since. Now at Auburn University, Geoff represents the College of Agriculture's first ever faculty member that specializes in bee health.

[Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!](#) We hope to see you there.

Breakout Speakers



Cyndi Ball is the owner of the Lazy B Farm in Statham, GA, and the Founder and President of the National Ladies Homestead Gathering. She is a certified beekeeper and has been teaching beginning beekeepers for nine years at her farm. Hundreds of beekeepers have graduated from her program.



Tommy Mealer started in business as a nuc producer and package broker. He is currently working for Blue Ridge Honey Company as Co-Manager of Beekeeping Operations, including queens, nuc, packages, and honey production.



Kelley Campbell began beekeeping in 2013 as something to do in the summer, and found she couldn't give it up once school started again. A teacher from August to May, she loves combining her passion for both teaching and beekeeping and helping others get started in this hobby.



Dr. Barbara Phillips is a retired Eye Surgeon, a Georgia Master Beekeeper, a Welsh Honey Judge and holds several other graduate degrees and titles. She lives in Savannah, Georgia along with her children and bees, all on Skidaway Island. She is very active in adult and school age bee related education.



Steve Esau is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and manages about 100 production hives in the Metro Atlanta area. Steve is also a member of GBA and is active in his local bee club where he mentors new beekeepers and serves on the board of directors.



Amy Weeks is a Master Craftsman Beekeeper (2014), who is currently specializing in producing hygienic queen bees and local honey in northeast Louisiana. She is a recent graduate of the LSU Ag Leadership Program and past president of Hill Country Beekeepers Association. Amy lives in West Monroe, Louisiana, with her husband and three sons.



Mark Farmer is Professor of cell biology at the University of Georgia. As a former program officer for the National Science Foundation, he became interested in the communication of science to the general public. He writes columns for the Athens Banner Herald and Scientific American.



Broadus Williams has been keeping bees for over six years and he's just getting started. There is so much to learn and much to share. As Broadus grows as a beekeeper, he will continue sharing all that he's learned in hopes that it helps someone else. "Teach and never stop learning."



Julia Mahood is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. She keeps bees in Atlanta and in Blue Ridge, and teaches beekeeping at Lee Arrendale State Prison.



Geoff Williams was born and bred in Canada, he experienced his first bee sting at the ripe age of 23. He has been hooked ever since. Now at Auburn University, Geoff represents the College of Agriculture's first ever faculty member that specializes in bee health.



Andy Marcus, President of the Amicalola Beekeepers Association, teaches a beekeeping class at the University of North Georgia College, manages his own backyard bees and in his spare time enjoys building top bar hives.

[Please note: This is an abbreviated version of our Fall Conference Program. The schedule and directions, etc. will be in the full version.]

FRIDAY

SESSION B • Friday, 2:00-2:45

Treasures of the Hive • Cyndi Ball

Location: Azalea

How many of us have buckets of beeswax sitting in our basement or garage because we're not quite sure what to do with it? This class will help turn that bucket of wax into cash! And we all know, beekeepers need cash to support this beekeeping habit.

Bee Schools • Kelley Campbell

Location: Oak

Hear how other clubs have organized and presented their bee schools so that you may adjust for your club, or get one started for the spring. Organizing, promoting, delivery methods, and follow-up/support for new keepers will be discussed.

Successful Splits • Steve Esau

Location: Laurel

Successful Splits and Understanding the Population Threshold: In this breakout session we will explore techniques and equipment needed in making splits and discuss the different challenges the time of year can present.

Backyard Beekeeping with Top Bar hives • Andy Marcus

Location: C107

Enjoy designing and building your own hive by hand and learn how to manage top bar hive woodenware. We'll talk about the joy of seeing your hive grow and fill up their space and we'll discuss the hard work and the pleasure of managing a top bar hive in your backyard.

Moving from Small Scale to Commercial • Amy Weeks

Location: Ballroom

While discussing queen rearing as a business, Amy will openly address the challenges and successes she's encountered producing almost 1,000 hygienic queen bees for resale each year. From transitioning from hobby to running a profitable business, she'll discuss topics ranging from quality control, sales and marketing, shipping, and retaining customers

Bee Removal • Broadus Williams

Location: Redbud

How to successfully remove bees from within structures. Learn about all the equipment needed, the pitfalls and thrills of this much needed bee business.

[Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!](#)

SATURDAY

SESSION D • Saturday, 3:15-4:00

A Changing Climate for Bees • Mark Farmer

Location: Azalea

Human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and changes in land use, are altering earth's climate in ways that have not happened in millions of years. The rapid alteration of ecosystems has placed unusual strain on many organisms, the effects of which will have lasting impacts on bees and other beneficial insects.

The Secret Life of Drones • Julia Mahood

Location: Laurel

Drones are the Rodney Dangerfields of the bee world—they get no respect! Come learn why the male bees are worth their keep and how they positively impact their colonies.

Small scale queen rearing • Tommy Mealer

Location: Oak

A practical guide for your small scale queen rearing.

Ethics/Honey Judging • Barbara Phillips

Location: C107

How to plan and produce a Welsh honey show and the ethics of judging

The Business of Raising Queens • Amy Weeks

Location: Redbud

In this talk, Amy will address the day to day operations of a small queen rearing business.

When pesticides and pathogens collide • Geoff Williams

Location: Ballroom

Understanding effects of exposure to multiple stressors at the same time has been a major focus of honey bee researchers of late. Using two potentially important stressors to honey bees - pesticides and pathogens - I'll review ways stressors can affect our bees, and how we as beekeepers can mitigate their negative effects.

LANIER Technical
College
FORSYTH CONFERENCE CENTER
3410 Ronald Reagan Boulevard
Cumming, Georgia 30041



Spilling *The* Honey

SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
RICK MOORE & HOLLY BAYENDOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The GBA Fall Conference is almost here! Registration is open now and is at a discount price until September 10. To see the full program, [click here](#). Register now, if you haven't already.

To register, [click here](#).

Here are 10 reasons to attend GBA.

10. You can talk to and reconnect with beekeeping friends new and old from all over the state.
9. You can vote in our officer/board of director election and have a voice in the leadership of this organization.
8. You can visit our vendors and purchase new items for the care of our favorite hobby or occupation: keeping bees.
7. You can enter the honey show and win great ribbons and monetary awards for the product your bees produce.
6. You can buy raffle tickets for big ticket items donated by Rossman and others and maybe even win!
5. You can come to the **Cookie and Ice Cream Social** to see if you won a honey award and to find out who is named **Beekeeper of the Year**.
4. You can learn from **Izzy Hill** how to grow your own nematodes to fight the small hive beetle.
3. You can hear **Juliana Rangel** teach us exactly how queens and drones really connect up there in the drone congregation area.
2. You can have a fun dinner on **Thursday night** and hear a world-famous speaker: **Maryann Frazier**.

And the first, most important reason to come to GBA:

NUMBER ONE: You can take away from the GBA Fall Conference tons of knowledge, equipment, and techniques to make yourself a better keeper of the bees.

I hope to see you all there at the Forsyth Conference Center at Lanier Technical College in Cumming, Georgia.

Bee Well,

Linda T



Beekeeping in Scotland!

– by Dan Long

This summer I had the good fortune to visit with a number of beekeepers in Scotland. While there I also visited a beekeeping supply store. I learned about the differences in nectar sources and timing as compared to Georgia. I got the chance to do two inspections at an apiary where a few different styles of hives were used.



For the most part they use National hives, which is short for **British Standard National**. They are similar to the Langstroth except the frames are smaller and have longer ears. They fit 11 frames across. They are also square so the frames can be oriented parallel or perpendicular to the entrance. They call this the warm way and the cold way due to ease of cold winter air blowing into the brood chamber.



The **Smith hive** is especially popular in Scotland. It's almost the same as the National except the ears are shorter and the boxes are slightly rectangular so the orientation is always the cold way. With adapter tabs in place, Smith frames can be used in National woodenware but not the other way around.

One day, I found some WBC hives at a public garden! They are the classic slope-sided type I associate with British beekeeping and I was really excited to see them. They weren't occupied and I got permission to open one up but found it was just an empty shell.



I saw several examples of a polystyrene nuc box which holds 6 frames and has an integral feeder. I saw and bought several other interesting pieces of equipment. I've already adapted it to my 8 frame gear back home and have found it useful.

While I was there, I gave a presentation to one of their clubs and even took them a bunch of varietal honey from over here. They were

kind enough to share some with me in return. Heather honey is especially delicious!



Whoops - a - Daisy Year

- by Bob Grant

As Hugh Grant, in the movie *Knotting Hill*, kept saying as he tried to scale an English garden fence - "Whoops-a-daisy!" In the mountains and elsewhere in Georgia we had a frustrating Whoops-a-Daisy beekeeping year. We all had a colder than normal winter through spring and to our dismay, as mountain beekeepers, we've had a cooler and much wetter spring and summer. For us mountain beekeepers, this set of conditions has resulted in a very depressing honey season. Meanwhile package bee producers appeared to have a tougher than normal time raising adequate queens to meet the early spring demand due to the protracted cold. Many of us, particularly in the mountains, faced a higher than normal winter colony loss. One report puts the average at 68%. Many of us had even higher losses due to the dramatic diurnal temperature range we experienced. This caused our bees to cluster tightly during the night and to emerge -- late morning -- take a cleansing flight and to forage for non-existent food as the temperatures reached the low fifties. Each day many bees could not make it back to the hive as the afternoon temperatures began to rapidly sink. Our colony clusters got smaller and smaller as winter progressed, until the colonies could no longer maintain temperature and they froze. In the mountains we see this all too often during the winter season, but this year brought a surprise I never experienced before in Georgia - rain in the hives!

In three of my largest colonies, I found all the bees dead on the bottom board and sopping wet. I can only attribute this to excess moisture in the hives. In doing some research I found that this occurs in extremely cold climates. The bees aspirate moisture as they consume their honey stores. This moisture then rises through the hive and the hole in the inner cover, while seeping out through vents or cracks in the outer cover. Where the moisture meets the telescoping cover it condenses to a liquid state and falls onto the top of the inner cover. It's a common occurrence during winter through early spring to see small pools of water on the top of the inner cover. This winter because of extreme cold, the condensing of water on the bottom of the inner cover caused it to rain back down on the cluster which froze the colony. As temperatures warmed the dead bees fell into a wet pile. Another first for this beekeeper.

As mentioned earlier, the bee package producers were having a difficult time getting all the queens needed to fill orders. Therefore, our order was delayed a couple of weeks which meant mid-April. Our wildflower flow starts around the first week in May, right after the Blackberry bloom, so we were pushing the normal wildflower collec-



My ladies visiting the pollen substitute feeder

tion. Well as it happens the flow was late by about 10 days in our area, but the blooms were out of sequence and not as robust due to the colder and wetter weather in May. In fact, May was more like April - not good. The developing colonies were bringing nectar and pollen from what little was available. Unfortunately, new colony sizes were small and blooming periods were shorter, so their food stores were meager which resulted in slower colony growth. Feeding was the only solution if we were to have strong colonies to enter the sourwood flow, which usually occurs in the third week of June at the 2000-foot elevation.

By the third week in June there were still no sourwood blooms. Now I'm thinking--ok this has been a weird year, so maybe it's delayed. My bees were flying high out of the box, about a 30- to 45-degree angle which is common during the sourwood flow, yet I only saw one sourwood tree in bloom. A quick inspection showed colonies starting to build comb with some raw honey present. Flash forward to the second week in July and my inspection revealed little sourwood or wildflower honey in the supers but more in the brood boxes, which was barely enough to support some of the colonies. Today my colony growth is still slow, and my bees are more agitated than normal for this period of time. Bottom line -- no sourwood and minimal wildflower for this honey season!

There are a number of theories floating around the mountain beekeeping community. All seem to focus on the month of May's weather and lack of sun being the source of the problem.

All we can do is feed our bees until the fall flow begins and then again after the flow to ensure adequate honey stores for winter. This Whoops-a-daisy honey season was a bust!

MEET THE CANDIDATES

GBA Elections will be held at the Fall Conference

For GBA President:

LINDA TILLMAN

Linda is currently President of GBA and is running for re-election.



“I am proud of all that GBA has accomplished in the last two years. Our membership has almost doubled; we have added new clubs and are up to over 45 clubs under GBA’s umbrella.

We got the honey bee license plate passed through the state legislature. We have increased GBA’s interaction with local bee clubs through the work of the directors who are assigned to seven or eight clubs each. We are working hard to streamline the different jobs in GBA through keeping computerized records. Our members are our best asset and support us in coming to our two annual conferences which get bigger and better each time. I hope to continue my work to help local club presidents feel more and more supported by the GBA.”

For GBA Vice-President:

GINA GALLUCCI

Gina is currently Vice-President and is running for re-election.

“I would like to continue to work on the honey bee license plate. The license plate is a huge project and will require a lot of care and attention in the next two years. I also want to continue working on bringing a smooth and enjoyable experience to each of our two annual conferences.”



For GBA Director (there are three slots up for election and four candidates who are running). Here are the four candidates in alphabetical order:

KATHY BOURN:



Kathy is President of Lake Hartwell Beekeepers. “I’m hoping to contribute to GBA in any way I can. I feel that the more GBA acts as a superorganism, like the honey bee does, the more we can all benefit from the experience, talent and work of all the beekeepers in the state.



BOBBY CHAISSON:

“I have been a member of GBA for several years now and have worked behind the scenes to help with several projects to move GBA forward. I have served as the president of the Tri County beekeepers now for the last four years. During this time it has been very important to me to make sure that the beekeepers in our club are successful through providing them with class room and hands on training.



I continue to see the growth of GBA and and local clubs. It is my hope to be part of that growth and to assist where I can to make sure local clubs are successful and to provide resources through GBA.”



(continued on next page)

MEET THE CANDIDATES

GBA Elections will be held at the Fall Conference *(continued)*

BRUTZ ENGLISH:

“I have had the privilege of serving on the Georgia Beekeepers Association’s Board of Directors for the past six years. Over the course of my service on the GBA Board we have seen this organization grow from a couple of hundred diehards to over a thousand members. Over the course of my service we have embraced modernization and technology as a means to better communicate with and educate our members. We have restructured our meetings and our bylaws to make our club more efficient and enjoyable, for both our members and volunteer leaders. We have expanded our public outreach, educational efforts, and financial support in regard to a broad range of activities. I believe the GBA today has a much more active, vibrant, and positive energy than it did when I first came on the Board six years ago. I have truly enjoyed my time serving on the GBA Board, I still believe I have a lot to contribute to the Association, and I would very much like to continue serving as an elected Director.”



STEVE ESAU:

“I approach beekeeping not only as an art but also as a science. Through that approach I have been adamant in working to gain not only practical but also a broad base of scholastic knowledge to become a better beekeeper. I started beekeeping in 2011 with two backyard hives and have moved from a hobby beekeeper to a sideliner with 75-100 production hives. This progression has given me a good perspective of beekeeping to better serve the members of the GBA. I am a University of Georgia Master Beekeeper and also a member of the GBA, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, and the American Beekeeping Federation. If given the opportunity to serve as a Director of GBA, I look forward to bringing my perspective of not only that of a hobby beekeeper but also the voice of a sideliner.”



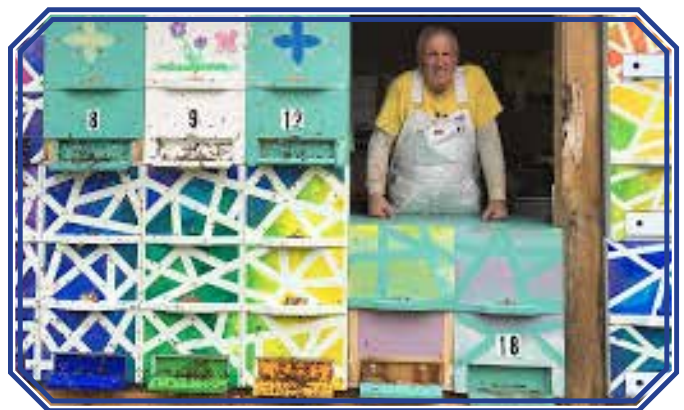
IN MEMORIAM: BRIAN DREBBER



Brian Drebber, President of the *Gilmer County Beekeepers*, has died. He was killed when his motorcycle collided with a deer in the early morning hours of Thursday, August 23, 2018. Brian is known to many of us beekeepers as the man who built and used AZ hives.

He was generous with his time, his knowledge, his chickens’ eggs, and his experience.

In his life outside of beekeeping, Brian was a commentator for Motocross. He had been a bicycle racer in his early years, but was a much better commentator than a racer, so he moved into that field. When he was killed on Thursday, the 23rd, he was on his motorcycle on the way to the airport



Brian Drebber with his AZ hives.

to be the commentator for a race. Our beekeeping community has suffered a big loss with his passing.

The Beekeeper of the Year



Brutz English was last year's recipient of this prestigious award. Brutz has been an industry champion for many years. Have you ever been to a conference and seen this award given? There is an electricity in the air. It is an emotional award. It is an honor bestowed by fellow beekeepers that lasts a lifetime.

This is the award given to Brutz for his dedication and service to the GBA and the beekeeping industry.

Brutz has been a beekeeper for 10 years and is the owner and operator of Liberty Hill Honey Company LLC.

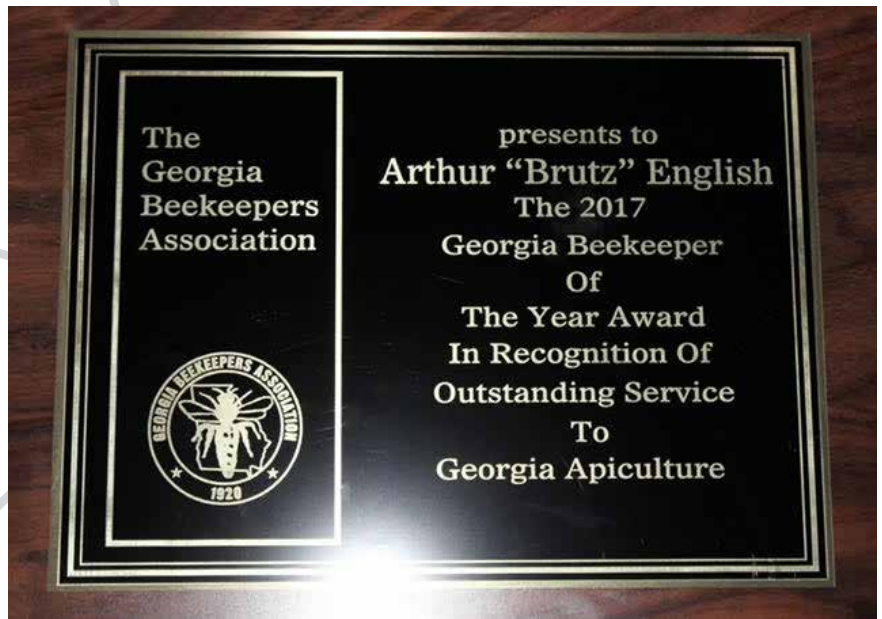
Brutz has a state-licensed honey house, and he sells honey and beeswax. He wears many hats and serves the industry in many ways. Brutz has served as a local club president in two different clubs, as a member and chair of multiple GBA committees, and as an elected director for GBA since 2013. Brutz is a UGA Master Beekeeper as well as a Senior Welsh Honey Judge. Brutz is now the Presiding Welsh Honey Judge for Georgia and the Program Director for the Welsh Honey Judge Training at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute.

So how does he feel about receiving the award? "Being chosen as the Beekeeper of the Year was a great honor for me. I always try to speak up, volunteer, and hustle when I see something that needs to be done. To be recognized by one's beekeeping peers, friends, and mentors is a really great feeling. The Beekeeper of the Year award is not something you can go out and earn. It's not a goal you can set and then check off requirements. It's an acknowledgement by one's peers in the beekeeping community and industry that your effort(s) stand out, and the work you're doing on their behalf matters. To be selected, from among so many other qualified and more experienced beekeepers, was very emotional for me. My plaque hangs on the wall in my home right next to my Law degree and my Eagle Scout award."

Prior winners still display the award in their homes also. If you know someone who deserves this honor, take a moment to reward them appropriately, nominate them for the highest honor given by the GBA.

This is the nominating link:

<https://georgiabee.wufoo.com/forms/mitpkt1obcmmai/>



WANTED: EDITOR FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

Rick Moore has served GBA very well. He has worn many hats. In addition to the job of being co-editor of the **Newsletter** with Holly Bayendor, he also has held other responsibilities. Rick is stepping down from all of his responsibilities to spend more time and focus on his family.

We are so grateful to Rick and all of the time and energy he has devoted to GBA. He has been co-editor of the newsletter for two years and has put his heart into the work.

He has chaired the **Prison Beekeeping Program** committee since Bear stepped down. We have programs in seven prisons. Rick serves Dooly Prison, but has an overseeing role over all the prison programs. He has helped make an effort to coordinate over the whole state and to be a resource for people working in the other prison beekeeping programs. Julia Mahood has agreed temporarily to step into Rick's role as director of the prison program. Julia currently oversees the program at Arrendale Prison in Lula, GA.

In addition, Rick has both served as a director on the **GBA Board of Directors** and has been the president of his local club, **Heart of Georgia**. Being a director takes a lot of energy and he has worked hard in both positions. This year he is not

the president of Heart of Georgia, but has continued to put in a lot of work as director. His term is not up until October, 2019 so Slade Mercer is stepping up to take Rick's place and to cover the clubs in the Heart of Georgia area.

One of the director jobs is to chair the election committee in the year when you are not running for election. This job includes rustling up candidates to volunteer and run for office as well as running the election. Rick has shepherded the election this year as chair of the election. Since Rick is stepping down before the election, Bobby Chaisson has agreed to help run the election this year.

As co-editor of the newsletter, Rick's role has been to collect and edit the articles, photos, and club news submitted to *Spilling the Honey*. All of the newsletter items are collected by email and are edited on the computer.

If you are a person who would be interested in and available to do this, please email Linda and let us know about you. It's a big state and we have about 1000 members, so we can't know who is out there and interested unless you contact us and say so. Please contact me if you are interested or if you have questions about this volunteer position that is extremely important to GBA.



Editor's note: I'd like to thank Rick for being incredibly supportive of my coming onto the team as the "production" editor for *Spilling the Honey*. He's been great to work with and I am going to miss him, as I'm sure are many people of GBA. **Don't be a stranger, Rick!** You don't have to be on the Board to keep in touch. – Holly Bayendor

*August 18 was National Honey Bee Day.
What did you or your club do to
celebrate the honey bee and share
our love for the girls?*



TEAM BEEKEEPING: UPS & DOWNS

for SOWEGA Beekeepers

During this fifth month, our new beekeepers have experienced some of the ups and down in beekeeping.

Two teams have made it up to five hives now. One team brought two weakish hives up from queenlessness and made successful splits. Now that team have five equal hives. The other team has consistently kept three hives doing well and attempted splits which were combined back. They mark their queens when they find them. Recently, in their largest hive they discovered two marked queens who seemed to be peacefully sharing the hive. A queenright split was made, giving them five hives.

One team has come back from the brink. Their one remaining hive was built up, split and successfully requeened itself. A split from the advisor hives plus frames from the unsuccessful queen starter made up a third hive for this team. The team also gained a new member and is no longer a one man team.

Three teams are back down to two hives. One team had two strong hives and took a small honey harvest. A couple of weeks later one hive was queenless and a mated queen was introduced. She was released and laying well but a week later was found being “balled” by the workers. She was recaged and left in the hive in hopes that she would be released again and accepted. Another team has been struggling to keep two hives alive.

The third team with two hives is down from five hives after two splits were unsuccessful. These are the “gentle bees.” The team member made an attempt at queen rearing using the Nicot system. The queen and a few attendants were held, in the hive, in a Nicot cage which has a grid of special queen cups. After a couple of days she had laid in about ninety percent of the one hundred cups. A queenless starter colony was made from bees donated by the advisor hives. While the starter colony was being prepared, the queen was released from the cage. BIG MISTAKE! The workers immediately began cleaning the eggs out of the cups. In the short time needed to get the starter colony ready, there were only three of the ninety plus eggs left. They were introduced to the starter colony anyway but were not successful. The starter colony was distributed among hives that needed the resources. This was an exciting experiment and will be repeated.

The three advisor hives are in surprising good shape. They have endured exposure to eight sessions of summer camp kids and will catch a break from that now that school has started again. At least three full supers of brood have been donated to team hives and bees were harvested to make the unsuccessful queen starter colony.

One team has come back from the brink. Their one remaining hive was built up, split and successfully requeened itself.

Each team did a mite check on at least two hives using the CO2 method. Mite counts were zero. Not surprising with all the queenlessness and broodlessness going on.

At least two teams have full honey supers on several of their hives. We have the opportunity now to set up an extraction teaching session so they can learn the techniques. Honey will be sold in the Chehaw Gift shop. Thanks to Denny Best of Best Apiaries for the donation of a large commercial size solar wax melter. We will now be reclaiming wax from culled frames and cappings.

We are covering the bases pretty well on the skills of beekeeping. We are confident that when these new beekeepers finish the program in the spring, they will have the skills and confidence they need to maintain their own bee yard. In fact, several have already jumped in and gotten bees at home.

GBA FALL CONFERENCE STATE HONEY SHOW

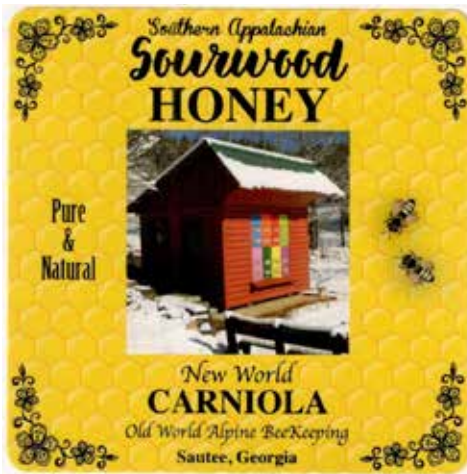
- Over \$3,000 in total cash prizes & awards
- \$100 for each 1st Prize!
- \$500 for Best in Show
- 18 Competitive categories



SEPTEMBER 28TH

Sponsored by **Brushy Mountain** and **Liberty Hill Honey Co.**

HONEY LABELS



(clockwise from top left:) Dooly Honey from Rick Moore, K&E's from Kathy Shelton and Emily Heath. Ochre Hill from Derrick Fowler, Raw Honey from Julia Mahood, Kelley Campbell, Lee Arrendale from Julia Mahood, Scottlund Yard from Charlie Scott & Mary. Mount Olivet from Lake Hartwell, Grandpa's from Donald Palmer, Sourwood from Katie Goodman. Thanks everyone!!



IT'S SEPTEMBER! FALL CONFERENCE MONTH

If you are the president of a local club, GBA is here for you. One of the best things you can do is to [register](#) and [come](#) to the GBA meeting. At the Presidents' Breakfast, we will have an opportunity to learn from each other, to share ideas and to grow our resources for being better presidents to the local clubs.

It's called the Presidents' Breakfast (without an apostrophe after the "t") because it's a breakfast for all the local club presidents to gather with each other. It's not MY breakfast (the President's Breakfast),

it's **YOUR** breakfast to grow and share resources with each other (the Presidents' Breakfast).

So come to the conference, **RSVP YES** to the Presidents' Breakfast and join us all as we try to learn from each other to make GBA better and better.

PS. The grammar program we use doesn't like my making presidents plural with the apostrophe after the "s" but it's because the program doesn't understand my reasoning - that the breakfast is for ALL the presidents equally.

GBA BY-LAWS: REPRESENTATION AT THE BOARD MEETING

The current by-laws state in Article VIII, Board of Directors: Each of the Corporation's locally affiliated Clubs or Associations may elect or appoint a local member of that club or association, who is also a GBA Member in good standing, to the Corporation's Board of Directors.

- (i) Notice of the director is to be sent to and received by the Secretary of the Corporation at least 72 hours prior to the Annual Membership Meeting of the Corporation.
- (ii) Notice must include:
 - 1) The name of the local representative being elected or appointed to the Board.
 - 2) The period of time for which the representative is authorized to serve as the local club's representative to the Board.
 - 3) The name, position, date of election, and signature of the local club officer issuing the notice.
- (iii) In the event the designated local association director is absent, the Corporation President may seat a member of that local association, who is present at the Board of Directors meeting, to the board of directors meeting.
- (iv) Any individual designated as a local representative to the Board pursuant to this Paragraph, shall be subject to all of the duties and obligations generally required of any other Board member under this Article.

There is no obligation for your club to submit someone as a voting representative, but to date very few clubs have actually followed the procedure above. We wanted to remind you so your club could be included, if you wish for it to be.

Swarm Catching by Night

– by Sam Alston

Roof is a 12/12 pitch which means it is a 45 degree slope. Super high and two weeks old. Mean and so defensive we could not vacuum them. Will be putting a hive with drawn combs full of food on the roof for them tomorrow.



GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR
Something for Everyone ... from Eight to Eighty!

Honey Show

October 6th

- Over \$1,500 in cash prizes & awards!
- \$50 for each 1st Prize!
- \$500 for Best in Show!
- 18 competitive classes!

Sponsored by:



Next Month...

Please take photos of friends, bee apparel, speakers, club bumper stickers, etc. while at the GBA Fall Conference in Cumming. Send them to us for October's issue of *Spilling the Honey*.

Send your pictures to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.



CLUB MEETINGS

PLEASE!!! If information in this newsletter is **INCORRECT** contact Holly directly, at hollybayendor@yahoo.com
 Club Presidents, please [click here](#) to fill out this form, for next month.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, September 3		Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, September 18	Annual Dinner - vote for next years officials	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Jasper Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, September 13		wnorris5@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909		Thursday, September 27		Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 18		arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 11	Kelley Campbell, How to Prepare Honey Entries	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, September 10		bedreber@aol.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2d Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, September 13		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, September 19		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Tuesday, September 11		Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 11	TBD	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, September 20	Jennifer Berry, the latest on UGA Bee Lab research	sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802		Monday, October 8		tnorman@augustaga.gov	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, September 10	Freya Zipperer, Master Gardener, Naturalist, & retired educator. What to plant for bees. This meeting is free and open to the public.	CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, September 10		dansweetbees@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 25		thezechmans@yahoo.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Lanier Technical College, Winder-Barrow Campus 965 Austin Rd Winder, GA 30680	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, September 3		EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, September 13		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, September 25	Adjusted date to accomodate GBA dinner Thursday. Annual Honey Show; Andy Bailey & Bill Dunn, recipes & practices for winter feeding	baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 18		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Henry County Parks & Recreation Office at Heritage Park Hwy 81 McDonough, GA 30252	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 11		hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	[3rd Monday], 6:30pm	Thursday, September 20	Board meeting	mlacksen@gmail.com	Hancock

(continued on next page)

CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

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Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, September 6 7pm	Bobby Chaisson from Blue Sky Honey & Georgia Bee Removal, "What is going on with my hive?"	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, September 25		info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, September 6		ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	[Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305] See other column for special event in September	Sunday, 9/16 4:30-7pm Special Event	Sunday, September 16 4:30pm-7pm	Picnic & Live Auction HONEY SHOW! 215 W Wieuca Rd NW Atlanta, GA 30342	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, GA 30512	2nd Tuesday	Tuesday, September 11		abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agricultural Center 555 Monroe Ave # 50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, September 13	Michael Minardi, how to make mead	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday 7pm	Monday, September 10	Small group round table discussions led by several members. Also, officer nominations will be discussed.	ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm	Thursday, September 27		beecolson@gmail.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, September 17		joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132		Monday, September 10		victor@makinhoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Rm, 245 East Ave, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 9:30 am	Saturday, September 1	Weyman Cowan speaks about honey show basics	polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223		Thursday, September 20 7pm	GA Dept. of Agriculture Honey House Inspector on Georgia's Honey House laws and Requirements	potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers SOWEGA	Lake Verne Creekside Education Center in the Parks of Chehaw Albany, GA 31701	Annually in Jan. 2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, September 13	Mary Cahill-Roberts will be speaking on apitherapy with an emphasis on honey	Barry Hart info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Clinch Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, September 17		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 4		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, September 10	Bobby Chaisson, Harold Lanier, Wade Dale, and Don "the Fat Bee Man" host Round table discussion	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	[2nd Monday], 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 18	Panel Discussion; Fall Hive Maintenance	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, September 17	Jim Quick	neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm	Monday, September 10		twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, September 18		waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, September 24		2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

In August we had **Christine Fortuin** from UGA speak to our club about native bees and how to help them survive beside our honeybees. She also touched on an update about the not so lovable Africanized Honey bee. Her knowledge about "other" bees was enlightening.

Next month, **Kelley Campbell** will share the tricks to prepare your honey and other products into a "Honey Show". We have our annual show in October so the timing is great plus Kelley has participated and won with her showings.

September is a busy month for the club. We participate in the Gwinnett County Fair with our booth and share the honeybee story with visitors. This is the club's only fundraiser and a great opportunity to recruit new members and generally educate the public about our hairy friend.

Our next Meeting will be September 11, at 7:00 PM. We meet at the Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Georgia.

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA)

On July 27, a tornado ripped through Oatland Island Wildlife Center, where the Coastal Empire Beekeepers Assn. maintains an apiary. While none of the CEBA hives was harmed, OIWC sustained severe damage and will be closed to the public until further notice. On Aug. 11, CEBA members were able to conduct the apiary's first post-tornado hive check. Three colonies were lost due to small hive beetles and wax moths, but three hives needed to be expanded.



(Top) Wax moth in the hive. (Bottom) Tree limb down in the CEBA apiary.

CEBA is grateful that OIWC also permitted members to still host their August 13 monthly meeting in an OIWC classroom. Applause for **Bobby Chaisson** of Georgia Bee Removal for his excellent presentation on ways to check on a hive before opening it up. This topic was particularly relevant because there were dozens of new beekeepers in the audience. On August 18, National Honey Bee Day, the local Coastal Empire Brewery hosted a fundraiser to help support CEBA's public education efforts.

Clark's Hill Beekeeping Association

The Clark's Hill Beekeeping Association will meet on September 3, 2018, at 7:00pm. Our speaker will be **Keith Fielder** speaking on Honey tasting in Georgia.

Coweta Beekeepers Association

Honey extracting will be conducted Saturday, August 4, 2018, starting at 0900. The extracting will take place at the Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Road, Newnan, Georgia.

If you are interested in learning how honey is extracted from the comb using a "Radial Extractor," you are invited to attend and assist. That means 'get your hands dirty'.

We will be extracting in the kitchen area of the Extension Office starting at 0900. Only the Pine Road entrance will be open due to new key/security system and if I mess up and the door is locked when you arrive tap on the kitchen window and we'll let you in. You can park in the front parking lot on Pine Road. We hope that you can come and be with us.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association



Ten members of Heart of GA Beekeepers took the **UGA certification test** on August 25, 2018, under the direction and supervision of Master Beekeeper **Steve Nofs, Jesse McCurdy** graciously provided bees for the practical exam portion.



Bear Kelley was the guest speaker at the August 21 meeting. Approximately 50 members attend his discussion about honey and beeswax.

Mountain Beekeepers Association

Mountain Beekeepers Association is proud to announce its **Fourth Annual Welsh Honey Show** will be held at the North Georgia Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, Georgia on **October 13, 2018**. We are accepting entries from interested beekeepers. Please see our website at MtnBeekeepers.org for instruction and classes of entries. Follow us on Facebook at *Mountain Beekeepers Association*.

(continued on next page)

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Association

Club members have been working hard preparing to host our upcoming **Chattahoochee Mountain Fair Honey Show** which will be on **September 8th** in Clarkesville.

At our last club meeting we were fortunate to be able to purchase Varroa mite treatment as a group. We were also given detailed instructions on the proper and safe usage of the pesticide Apivar. All members' questions were answered by our veteran beekeepers that are always willing to share their wealth of knowledge.

Generous donations, from our members, were collected to be given to the female prison beekeeping program at Arrendale State Prison. These donations will be used to purchase a teaching hive for their program.

Our club is looking forward to our upcoming September meeting which will feature **Michael Minardi**. Michael is going to be teaching us about the art of mead making.

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

In Tri-County Beekeepers last meeting, **Cory Momany** from UGA came and spoke on honey bee nutrition and explained the nutritional needs of our bees and some of the ways to supplemental feed during a draught.

In our next meeting, in September, we will be having a round table discussion and question and answer time where some of our veteran beekeepers will be answering questions. Also in September, **Cindy Baugh** will be joining us to discuss social media marketing.

The club beeyard is doing great. All of the hives have made it through the spring and most of summer and look like they will be going into winter with strong numbers. We are looking forward to a good honey harvest for the club next year.

Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association – **New Club!!**

There is a new club in town: The Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association held their **first public meeting** at the Ware County Library in Waycross on Monday evening, August 13. The lively crowd braved one of the worst storms in the area this summer which included tornados that caused widespread tree and structure damage in the surrounding area. The evening's program included an introduction to the UGA pollinator program and a beekeeping equipment demonstration. The Association will meet on the **2nd Monday at 6:15 pm currently at the Ware County Library in Waycross.** Anyone with an interest in beekeeping is welcome and encouraged to attend. You can keep up with Association events at <https://twinriversbeekeepers.com>.

Walton County Beekeepers Association

A photo from the group's Summer Salad Social in July:



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association will meet August 27, 2018. **Allen Bradd** of Sweetwater Creek Honey Farm will be our guest speaker. Allen's topic will be winter prep and controlling pests. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm and the club meeting begins at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall, 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134. Hope to see you there.



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS



Featuring the
Annual
HONEY SHOW

Best in Show prize
\$250

**FALL
MEETING
2018**

September 27-29
CUMMING, GEORGIA

SPONSORED BY:



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Tim Hoffman

Rick Moore

Sophia Price

Jane Quattlebaum

Broadus Williams

Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!

Friday, September 28

7:45-8:45 President's Breakfast

A meeting of all attending local club presidents.

8:45 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:00-9:45 *Maryann Frazier*: Kenyan Bee "Havers"

Bees have inhabited East Africa for thousands of years. In Africa, humans first hunted bees and then learned to use hollow logs to provide nesting cavities for migratory swarms. Today 95% percent of Kenyan honey is still harvested from log hives. Is this because Kenyan beekeeping is undeveloped or does "keeping" bees in this way provide other advantages?

9:45-10:30 *Jerry Hayes*: Why Beekeeping is so hard; why you are so Important.

10:30-11:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

11:00-11:45 Breakout Sessions A

11:45- 12:45 LUNCH

12:30 Announcements and door prizes

12:45-1:30 *Izzy Hill*: DIY Nematode Rearing to Battle SHB

Entomopathogenic nematodes are a biological control method that is often overlooked as a small hive beetle (SHB) control method that can be incorporated into beekeepers' Integrated Pest Management strategies. Come learn more about properly using nematodes and how to rear nematodes yourself.

1:30-2:00 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

2:00- 2:45 Breakout Sessions B

2:45-3:15 BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to Ballroom*

3:15-4:00 *Geoff Williams*: Bees and BMPs

Best Management Practices (BMPs) in apiculture should be practical, effective, scientifically backed actions that maximize the health of honey bee colonies. Here, we will explore recent long-term efforts by the Bee Informed Partnership to identify effective BMPs for today's beekeeper.

4:00-4:45 *Juliana Rangel*: Biology of Mating

We will cover the biology of queens and drones, and the biology of mating. Also covered will be the environmental conditions required for queens and drones to mate in the drone congregation areas, queen reproductive quality, and problems associated with poor queen mating. Understanding the basic biology of mating will inform beekeepers about what they can expect to happen in their colonies during the swarming season.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:30-8:30 Cookies and Honey Ice Cream Reception Awards announcements

8:00-10:00 Honey Show entries accepted in Honey Show Room (to the left of front building entrance)

8:00-11:00 Voting

*All events will be held in the
Conference Center Ballroom,
unless otherwise noted.*

10:00-12:00 Honey Show Judging

11:00- 11:45 Breakout Sessions A are repeated as Sessions B at 2:00 pm.

12:30-12:45 Announcements and door prizes

*No winners will be announced
until the ice cream reception
at 6:30 pm!*

*Thank you, Forsyth County
Beekeepers, for the cookies
donated to our ice cream social.*

6:30-8:30 Announcement of Honey Show Awards and Beekeeper of the Year Award

[Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!](#) We hope to see you there.

Saturday, September 29

8:30-9:00 Visit vendors and buy raffle tickets

9:00-10:00 GBA Business meeting

10:00-10:45 *Juliana Rangel*: Factors that Affect the Reproductive Quality of Queens and Drones

We will cover the biological and environmental factors that affect queen and drone reproductive quality, including evidence that queens raised from younger worker larvae exhibit higher measures of reproductive potential compared to queens raised from older larvae, and that exposure to miticides and agrochemicals in the wax environment severely affects queen and drone reproductive health.

10:45-11:15 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to breakouts

11:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions C

12:00 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to lunch

12:15 -1:15 LUNCH

1:00 -1:15 Raffle drawings and officer election results

1:15-2:00 *Jerry Hayes*: Bee Nutrition

2:00-2:45 *Izzy Hill*: New Advancements in IPM for Varroa Mites

This discussion will cover the latest knowledge, research, and management techniques aimed at combating Varroa mites in honey bee colonies.

2:45-3:15 BREAK • Final visit to vendors

3:15-4:00 Breakout Sessions D

4:00-4:45 *Maryann Frazier*: Gifts of the Hive: Making and Marketing Liquid Gold

Honey (and beeswax), is an amazing product and can yield a high price. But how do we keep bees healthy enough to make a crop? Once we have the honey (and wax) where and how can we creatively market these remarkable products? I'll share what I have learned in the past two years.

4:45-5:00 Raffle drawings, conference ends!

8:00-11:15 Voting

8:00-11:15 Honey Show open for viewing

11:30-12:45 Pick up honey show entries

11:15- 12:00 Breakout Sessions C are repeated as Sessions D at 3:15 pm.

Please pick up your Honey Show entries from 11:30-12:45. This is a huge help to our volunteers!

Sponsors



Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!

Keynote Speakers



Maryann Frazier: For 27 years, Maryann has worked at Penn State and been responsible for honey bee extension in Pennsylvania. Her recent work focused on understanding the impacts of pesticides on pollinators. In addition she has worked with Kenyan researchers to understand East African honey bees and help beekeepers become more productive.



Jerry Hayes, a longtime writer of the *Classroom* column in ABJ, has now retired from Monsanto. He joined the agrochemical company shortly after they acquired Beeologics, an Israeli company that was pioneering RNAi technology to immunize honey bees against specific viruses. While at Monsanto, Jerry strove to inform beekeepers about the dangers of varroa, emphasizing the impacts this destructive parasite has on colony health. Before he joined Monsanto, Hayes ran Florida's Apiary Inspection Section.



Izzy Hill is a researcher and educator of Integrated Pest Management tactics for the management of pests to honey bees. Her primary area of interest is in better understanding the efficacy, proper use, and cost efficiencies of various pest treatments for small hive beetle and Varroa mites.



Juliana Rangel was born in Colombia. Juliana obtained her education at the University of California, San Diego (B.S.), Cornell University (Ph. D.), and North Carolina State University (NSF Postdoctoral Fellow). She is Associate Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University working on projects related to honey bee health.



Geoff Williams was born and bred in Canada, he experienced his first bee sting at the ripe age of 23. He has been hooked ever since. Now at Auburn University, Geoff represents the College of Agriculture's first ever faculty member that specializes in bee health.

Register here for the GBA Fall Conference! We hope to see you there.

Breakout Speakers



Cyndi Ball is the owner of the Lazy B Farm in Statham, GA, and the Founder and President of the National Ladies Homestead Gathering. She is a certified beekeeper and has been teaching beginning beekeepers for nine years at her farm. Hundreds of beekeepers have graduated from her program.



Tommy Mealer started in business as a nuc producer and package broker. He is currently working for Blue Ridge Honey Company as Co-Manager of Beekeeping Operations, including queens, nuc, packages, and honey production.



Kelley Campbell began beekeeping in 2013 as something to do in the summer, and found she couldn't give it up once school started again. A teacher from August to May, she loves combining her passion for both teaching and beekeeping and helping others get started in this hobby.



Dr. Barbara Phillips is a retired Eye Surgeon, a Georgia Master Beekeeper, a Welsh Honey Judge and holds several other graduate degrees and titles. She lives in Savannah, Georgia along with her children and bees, all on Skidaway Island. She is very active in adult and school age bee related education.



Steve Esau is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and manages about 100 production hives in the Metro Atlanta area. Steve is also a member of GBA and is active in his local bee club where he mentors new beekeepers and serves on the board of directors.



Amy Weeks is a Master Craftsman Beekeeper (2014), who is currently specializing in producing hygienic queen bees and local honey in northeast Louisiana. She is a recent graduate of the LSU Ag Leadership Program and past president of Hill Country Beekeepers Association. Amy lives in West Monroe, Louisiana, with her husband and three sons.



Mark Farmer is Professor of cell biology at the University of Georgia. As a former program officer for the National Science Foundation, he became interested in the communication of science to the general public. He writes columns for the Athens Banner Herald and Scientific American.



Broadus Williams has been keeping bees for over six years and he's just getting started. There is so much to learn and much to share. As Broadus grows as a beekeeper, he will continue sharing all that he's learned in hopes that it helps someone else. "Teach and never stop learning."



Julia Mahood is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. She keeps bees in Atlanta and in Blue Ridge, and teaches beekeeping at Lee Arrendale State Prison.



Geoff Williams was born and bred in Canada, he experienced his first bee sting at the ripe age of 23. He has been hooked ever since. Now at Auburn University, Geoff represents the College of Agriculture's first ever faculty member that specializes in bee health.



Andy Marcus, President of the Amicalola Beekeepers Association, teaches a beekeeping class at the University of North Georgia College, manages his own backyard bees and in his spare time enjoys building top bar hives.

Register here for the GBA Fall Conference! We hope to see you there.

Breakout Sessions

FRIDAY

SESSION A • Friday, 11:00-11:45

Treasures of the Hive • Cyndi Ball

Location: Azalea

How many of us have buckets of beeswax sitting in our basement or garage because we're not quite sure what to do with it? This class will help turn that bucket of wax into cash! And we all know, beekeepers need cash to support this beekeeping habit.

Bee Schools • Kelley Campbell

Location: Oak

Hear how other clubs have organized and presented their bee schools so that you may adjust for your club, or get one started for the spring. Organizing, promoting, delivery methods, and follow-up/support for new keepers will be discussed.

Successful Splits • Steve Esau

Location: Laurel

Successful Splits and Understanding the Population Threshold: In this breakout session we will explore techniques and equipment needed in making splits and discuss the different challenges the time of year can present.

Backyard Beekeeping with Top Bar hives • Andy Marcus

Location: C107

Enjoy designing and building your own hive by hand and learn how to manage top bar hive woodenware. We'll talk about the joy of seeing your hive grow and fill up their space and we'll discuss the hard work and the pleasure of managing a top bar hive in your backyard.

Moving from Small Scale to Commercial • Amy Weeks

Location: Ballroom

While discussing queen rearing as a business, Amy will openly address the challenges and successes she's encountered producing almost 1,000 hygienic queen bees for resale each year. From transitioning from hobby to running a profitable business, she'll discuss topics ranging from quality control, sales and marketing, shipping, and retaining customers

Bee Removal • Broadus Williams

Location: Redbud

How to successfully remove bees from within structures. Learn about all the equipment needed, the pitfalls and thrills of this much needed bee business.

SESSION B • Friday, 2:00-2:45

Treasures of the Hive • Cyndi Ball

Location: Azalea

How many of us have buckets of beeswax sitting in our basement or garage because we're not quite sure what to do with it? This class will help turn that bucket of wax into cash! And we all know, beekeepers need cash to support this beekeeping habit.

Bee Schools • Kelley Campbell

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Hear how other clubs have organized and presented their bee schools so that you may adjust for your club, or get one started for the spring. Organizing, promoting, delivery methods, and follow-up/support for new keepers will be discussed.

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[Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!](#)

Breakout Sessions

SATURDAY

SESSION C • Saturday, 11:15-12:00

A Changing Climate for Bees • Mark Farmer

Location: Azalea

Human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and changes in land use, are altering earth's climate in ways that have not happened in millions of years. The rapid alteration of ecosystems has placed unusual strain on many organisms, the effects of which will have lasting impacts on bees and other beneficial insects.

The Secret Life of Drones • Julia Mahood

Location: Laurel

Drones are the Rodney Dangerfields of the bee world—they get no respect! Come learn why the male bees are worth their keep and how they positively impact their colonies.

Small scale queen rearing • Tommy Mealer

Location: Oak

A practical guide for your small scale queen rearing.

Ethics/Honey Judging • Barbara Phillips

Location: C107

How to plan and produce a Welsh honey show and the ethics of judging

The Business of Raising Queens • Amy Weeks

Location: Redbud

In this talk, Amy will address the day to day operations of a small queen rearing business.

When pesticides and pathogens collide • Geoff Williams

Location: Ballroom

Understanding effects of exposure to multiple stressors at the same time has been a major focus of honey bee researchers of late. Using two potentially important stressors to honey bees - pesticides and pathogens - I'll review ways stressors can affect our bees, and how we as beekeepers can mitigate their negative effects.

SESSION D • Saturday, 3:15-4:00

A Changing Climate for Bees • Mark Farmer

Location: Azalea

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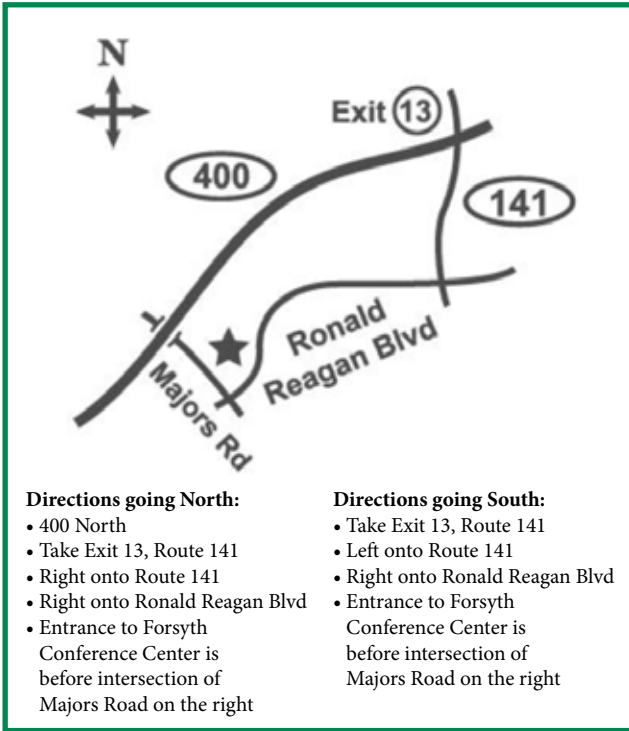
The Georgia Beekeepers Association
will be **100 years old in 2020.**

Watch for information about our celebration!

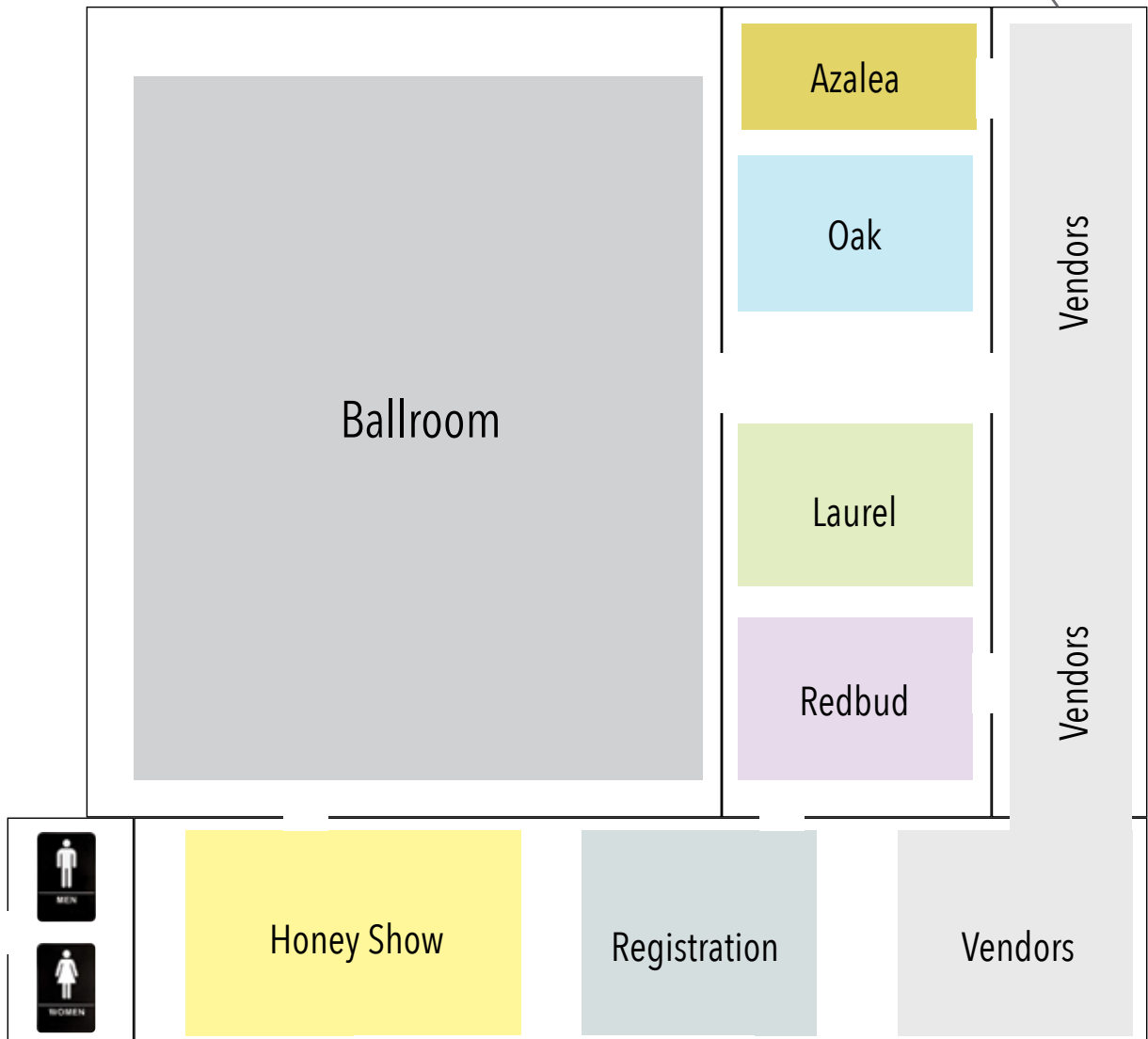
[Register here for the GBA Fall Conference!](#)

*Register here for the
GBA Fall Conference!*

We hope to see you there.



Classroom C107
(upstairs)



Main Entrance



Spilling *The* Honey

OCTOBER 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
HOLLY BAYENDOR MCCONNELL



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great GBA Conference! Thanks to so many of you for coming. The new facility was great and we had perhaps the smoothest conference we have ever had. The help from the staff there made many, many parts of the meeting go better than expected.

From good speakers to good breakouts to a fabulous honey show and a fun awards presentation on Friday night, I had a great time and hope you did too. There were too many people to thank adequately.

First I want to thank the meeting committee: **Gina Gallucci, Julia Mahood, Brutz English, Derrick Fowler, Slade Mercer, Bobby Chaisson, and Teri Meyer** – what a fantastic group. I also served on the committee. Every one of these people went more than the extra mile to bring the meeting together and make things go well.

A big thanks to **Jennifer Berry** who works hard to find good national level speakers for us. We are so grateful.

I am particularly appreciative of the people in the **Forsyth Bee Club**. Here are some of the ways that they helped.

Joe Renta and **Mike Dayton** helped **Bobby Chaisson** run the election and did a really good job. The election process was run on computer, so they came to a special training to learn how to manage the new program and then helped people vote on Friday and Saturday morning.

Christine Farhnbauer, Janet Phillips, Joe Banister, Mark Jefferson, Reid Jefferson, and Mike Conner all helped with registration. They also came to a special training to learn how to do this.

Mike Dayton made the coffee for the whole association both mornings.

And **Teri Meyer** organized the cookie baking for Friday night. Her cookie providers included: herself, **Denise Gleiter, Melinda Wilkins, Joann Hohman, and Ann Shelton**. They set up the cookies and provided the extras as part of Saturday's snack. Great job and thanks to the **Forsyth Bee Club**.

A very special thanks to **Paul Berry**, our treasurer. Paul manned the front desk and solved problems all weekend. He assisted people who had trouble registering and helped make name tags for those who came in at the last minute to join the conference. Paul collected money for the **Buzz Fund** both by carrying around the fishbowl to gather cash donations and by taking in contributions from speakers, clubs and other contributors. And he wrote checks for the honey show awards, the speakers, and the conference expenses.

The raffle sales and GBA merchandise sales went very well and were staffed by experienced people from past years. Included in the raffle sale helpers were **Kathy Bourn, Katie Goodman, Dan Long** (whose new plan for managing the tickets saved the day!), **Gina Gallucci, Slade Mercer, Broadus Williams, Kelley Campbell, and Holly Bayendor McConnell**.

And thanks to every one of you who came and connected with your fellow beekeepers. We all enjoyed learning more about beekeeping together and I loved seeing all of you.

Bee Well,

Linda T



Meeting beekeepers in **POLAND**

– by *Steve Page*
Coweta Beekeepers



My wife Vickie and I spent 17 days in Poland in September. During free time we visited a beekeeper near Gdansk. Mateusz (Mathew) keeps about 200 hives. The bees forage on canola in the spring. In September, he moves his



hive about 100 km to an area that has a nectar flow. We had a great visit, and he told me to bring a group from the USA to visit him. Who is interested in visiting Mateusz? He uses a

Dadant smoker. He said they are the best. He bought it from Lyson, a polish beekeeping supplies business. Lyson imports the smokers from Dadant.



We were in Krakow for the 100th anniversary of the Krakow Beekeepers Association.

Honey is cherished in Europe; it can be found at breakfast buffets.



Photos by Steven Page.



MABA's 1st **Beekeeper of the Year** *Gina Gallucci*

– by *Julia Mahood*
President, MABA

MABA has never given a **Beekeeper of the Year** award before this year. I'm as thrilled as I can be that the first **MABA BOY** award has been given to Gina Gallucci.

Gina has worn about every hat there is at MABA over the years. She has served on the Board, been Vice President and was President in 2011 and 2012. What's amazing about Gina is that now, many years after her service in key board positions has ended, she still volunteers an incredible amount.



Gina mans the **“swarm call hotline”** which is a google number the club has just for swarm calls. You can imagine how busy she is in the spring months, taking calls and finding beekeepers to pick up the swarms. She also manages the club's **Bee Neighbor Program** which gives members lists of other beekeepers in their part of town. Gina conducts **hive inspections** and maintains hives at one of the club apiaries in Atlanta.

MABA President Julia Mahood presents The Beekeeper of the Year award to Gina Gallucci at the MABA picnic and honey show on September 14, in Atlanta.

She maintains the club's **Ulster observation hive**, setting it up and making it ready for members to use when they are giving beekeeping presentations. She also stores club materials in her basement!

In addition to all these things, Gina's attitude is the most positive imaginable. She truly sees the best in people and in the bee club. Her dedication to beekeepers and to the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is remarkable. She was integral in making Atlanta a **Bee City USA**, and is a tireless liaison between MABA and other city organizations.

It's impossible to know how many beekeepers she's helped over the years, but I know that we are all grateful for her.



BEEKEEPING is a Lifestyle CHANGE

– by Clay "Bear" Kelley
Past President of GBA

Our Prison Beekeeping Program Needs You

I started beekeeping around the fall of 2007 from a wild idea that I could have all the honey that I wanted. Wow, from there this little hobby blossomed into a real life-style change for me. My love of nature has always existed as I lived on a boat for ten years enjoying the coastal United States from the Florida Keys to Maine. I learned to appreciate nature's way of expressing herself with her different moods and weather patterns as well as the wide variety of sea life we encountered along the way. But when I started keeping honey bees, I got immersed into their world and not only appreciated it but wanted to change so many things we do as humans to help protect the little creatures. I stopped killing dandelions growing in the yard because bees needed that little flower in the early spring as well as so many others I thought were a nuisance to the greenery in the yard. I ceased using many chemicals that are a detriment to bees and other creatures to provide them with life instead of elimination. The more I studied, the more involved I became with the organization of beekeeping from the local level, to the state and national level. Serving as the State President of Georgia Beekeepers allowed me to travel and meet so many others who had been "stung" as bad as I was.

In my travels around Georgia, I learned of an inmate in one of the state prisons who had an interest in beekeeping before he was sent to prison. I coordinated with the warden of that facility and I met this inmate who had started teaching an introductory program about honey bees. I saw in the men of his class a sincere desire to learn more about the practice

of keeping and managing bees. I saw an opportunity for the prisons to be able to pollinate their own farm fields with their own bees and thereby save tax dollars from renting bees to have those fields pollinated. So, from there I took it upon myself to coordinate with the state officials and the University of Georgia



Above: Clay teaching beekeeping at a prison. [Photo courtesy of Bee Culture.] Inset: Clay judging a honey show.

to expand the program at that facility and insure that they had bees, hives and plenty of study material. I coordinated with the local bee club and encouraged them to take on the challenge of mentoring the inmates and assisting them with the success of this new endeavor. It worked so well, that more than 100 inmates at that facility are now state certified beekeepers. This certification is now a part of their prison education records.

From that project, **Georgia now has beekeeping going on in seven facilities** (including a maximum-security women's facility) and beekeeping is part of the state prison education program.

The volunteers who stepped up to mentor have been remarkable. Although they seem to be tireless, I know that they all have day jobs, family life and their own bees to manage so the time they have dedicated to this project is coming to an end. **We must encourage new volunteers to step in to help. We need the state to fund a position of state apiarist** to travel about and to coordinate all the potential activity that could unfold. For example, one facility could raise queen bees, one facility could build hives and hardware and another could prepare bee packages and nucs to transfer to the other facilities.

(continued on next page)

BEEKEEPING

.....

is a Lifestyle CHANGE – (CONT'D)

.....

I visited each of the prisons and talked to the inmates at length about their future in beekeeping. Their interest is strong and sincere. A few revealed that before beekeeping they had no hope. But now they have something to learn, practice and hopefully benefit from upon their release. In addition, they are amazed at the life-giving effort of the bees and take it personally when some of them die or a hive swarms and departs the prison apiary.

The prison beekeeping program has developed into a program that must continue to spread throughout other prisons to give these folks something to believe in and something real from which they can prosper.

We have over 3,000 beekeepers in Georgia (outside of the prisons), who operate their apiaries as backyard beekeepers, sideliners and commercial operators for the same reasons the inmates want to get involved. I know beekeepers to be helpful and willing to mentor others and we need more of this in the prison beekeeping program.

Editor's note: As Bear mentioned, and others on the Board have also stated, we need more volunteers to help with the **Prison Beekeeping Program**. If you would like to volunteer, or just want to learn more, please contact **Julia Mahood** at julia@mahoodstudio.com.



MENTORING SESSIONS



– by **Dan Scales**
President, Coweta Beekeepers

The Coweta Beekeeper Association meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm, but we have a 6:30 teaching time that we call our **mentoring session**. I believe with all my heart in mentorship. When I began beekeeping as a teenager, I had a mentor who helped me to understand the complex, but fascinating world of honey bees. Without his help, I might have never had that part of the world opened up to me. We had no internet at that time. Now we have the internet and associations full of experienced beekeepers willing to help the not-so-experienced find their way.

We have an instructor for the mentoring session, who calls me prior to our meeting, and asks what subject to cover. Usually it is based on the time frame of our bees in their calendar year, or on questions that have been asked from beekeepers needing answers. Our session mentors are provided with any teaching aides they need to convey the message properly.

Sometimes if our instructor cannot be at our meeting, we must find a substitute teacher. The question was posed to me, “How do you find people and get them to teach?” My answer is, “Through relationship with our members and listening as they share their experiences.” Then, when a substitute is needed, I go to these people and ask for their assistance. Many times, their response is that they have never spoken in front of a crowd. I assure them that everyone they are speaking to is eager to learn and succeed in beekeeping. I encourage them to relax and talk collectively to everyone as though they are talking to just one person. Most importantly, I believe in them and know they can do this. Many times, people just need a slight shove out of the nest to take flight and soar. Many thanks to our faithful mentors.

Note: Thanks to Dan for sharing this with our members. Perhaps your club could try something like this. LDT

Meet a GBA Volunteer:

Katie Goodman – by Linda Tillman GBA President

GBA survives on volunteer energy – whether you are supporting the GBA in your local club or working for the organization as a whole. **Katie Goodman** is president of her local club, **NE Georgia Beekeepers**, and promotes GBA at every meeting. She is a certified beekeeper and works with Carl Webb, where she has learned so much about beekeeping. When GBA needed her help, she served this year on the Beekeeper of the Year committee.

I did a short interview with Katie:

How long have you been keeping bees?

It's hard to believe, but for only three years! Slade Jarrett sold me my first two packages in March 2015. I've been hooked ever since.

Why did you start beekeeping?

My garden wasn't producing like I thought it could produce. One day, I offhandedly said to my better half that maybe we should get some bees. For Christmas that year he gifted me two hive bodies with frames...the rest is history. Now, three years later, my gardens have shrunk in size and my apiaries have grown in size. Who has time for gardening when you have bees?

What is it like to work for a giant in the field like Carl Webb?

It's like the scene from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory when Charlie opens that chocolate bar containing the Golden Ticket !! LUCKY !! I feel honored that he passes down his years of experience to me. Every day is an adventure and every day I learn something new!

What is your favorite story about a beekeeping adventure?

Beekeeping took me to Istanbul, Turkey last year.



(Above) Katie with her hives.
(Left) Katie at the GBA Fall Conference.



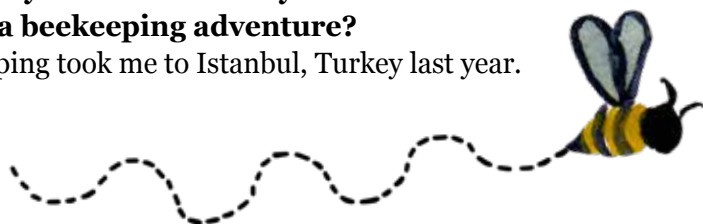
APIMONDIA 2017 was an adventure for sure!! Who would've thought bees would be the reason for my first trip to Europe!

What do you like about being president of the NE Ga Beekeepers?

My favorite part of being president is when our club sponsors a beginning beekeeping class every spring. I love being a part of exposing people to the world of bees for the first time. I love it when I see the awe and wonder in the students eyes.

What do you enjoy about being involved in GBA?

The people. Plain and Simple. Beekeepers are my kind of people and I've met some really great ones through GBA.



BEEKEEPER of the YEAR 2018

Julia Mahood was honored at the GBA Fall Conference Honey Show Award Ceremony as this year's winner of the **Beekeeper of the Year**.

A Georgia Master Beekeeper, Julia Mahood is the current President of **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association**. She has spent over 14 years beekeeping. Julia has served on the boards of GBA and MABA. She is a co-founder of the **Atlanta Bee Meetup**. She dedicates much of her time to teaching beekeeping at the Lee Arrendale State Prison.

Julia also put her artist talent to work when she designed the Georgia beekeeping license plate, that will be available for purchase next year.

Julia has helped, mentored, volunteered and inspired many in our beekeeping community. Thank you, Julia!

Sophia Price, BOY Committee Chair, noted in her presentation of the award, that an astounding 52 beekeepers were nominated.



(Top) BOY Committee Chair Sophia Price with 2018 Beekeeper of the Year, Julia Mahood. Bobby Chaisson, BOY Committee member, offers congratulations. (Photo by Steve Page.) (Left) Julia encourages the next generation of beekeepers (with member-baby Madeline Marshall, 9-month-old daughter of David and Rebekah.)

*A Special
Thank You*

*To everyone who
nominated someone
for the BOY.
This is a very
special award.*

– The BOY Committee 2018



– by Holly Bayendor

And the Winners are...



– by Brutz English

GBA Fall Honey Show Results

This year's GA State Honey Show had 117 entries from 43 competitors from 23 local clubs across GA! We handed out \$2,140.00 in cash prizes plus \$100.00 gift certificate from Brushy Mountain. The number of entries is up from 84 entries in the 2017 GA State Honey Show. Congratulations to all the winners!

2018 Georgia State Champions 1st Place winners

Stephanie Killingsworth (Light Extracted Honey, Varietal Honey, Molded Ornamental Beeswax Candles)

Ryan McDonald (Medium Extracted Honey)



Above: The Honey Show Judges, show stewards and secretaries. Below: the Judges with the 1st Place winners. Photos by Steve Page.



Sandy Good (Novice Extracted Honey, Dark Extracted Honey)

Bobby Thanepohn (Creamed Honey, Beeswax Block)

James Ritchie (Chunk Comb Honey)

Laura Hogue (Molded Taper Beeswax Candles, Dipped Taper Beeswax Candles, Beeswax Bars)

Michael Hogue (Cut Comb Honey, Full Frame Comb Honey)

Dan Long (Commercial Extracted Honey)

Darek Foti (Black Jar)



(continued)

GBA 2018 FALL CONFERENCE

Winning exhibits/exhibitors:

Light Extracted Honey

- 1st **Stephanie Killingsworth**
- 2nd **Steven Page**
- 3rd **Jay Parsons**
- VHC **Michael Hogue**
- HC **Kelley Campbell**
- C **Michelle Mincey**

Commercial Extracted Honey

- 1st **Dan Long**

Varietal Extracted Honey

- 1st **Stephanie Killingsworth**
- 2nd **Sandy Good**
- 3rd **Jay Parsons**
- VHC **Bobby Chaisson**

Beeswax Block

- 1st **Bobby Thanepohn**
- 2nd **Ryan McDonald**
- 3rd **Dan Long**
- VHC **Lisa Hogue**
- HC **Michael Conner**
- C **Stephanie Killingsworth**

Med. Extracted Honey

- 1st **Ryan McDonald**
- 2nd **Stephanie Killingsworth**
- 3rd **Jay Parsons**
- VHC **Michelle Mincey**
- HC **Sandy Good**
- C **Bobby Thanepohn**

Creamed Honey

- 1st **Bobby Thanepohn**
- 2nd **Michael Hogue**
- 3rd **Dan Long**
- VHC **Jay Parsons**
- HC **Sandy Good**

Beeswax Bars

- 1st **Lisa Hogue**
- 2nd **Dan Long**
- 3rd **Sandy Good**

Dark Extracted Honey

- 1st **Sandy Good**
- 3rd **Jay Parsons**
- HC **Bobby Chaisson**
- C **Monte McDonald**

Chunk Honey

- 1st **James Ritchie**
- 2nd **Michael Hogue**
- 3rd **Jean Martin**
- HC **Darek Foti**

Dipped Taper Candles

- 1st **Lisa Hogue**
- 3rd **Sandy Good**

Molded Taper Candles

- 1st **Lisa Hogue**
- HC **Darek Foti**

Novice Extracted Honey

- 1st **Sandy Good**
- 2nd **James Marcus**
- 3rd **Millie Reeves**
- VHC **Jean Martin**
- C **Grant Springfield**

Cut Comb Honey

- 2nd **Michael Hogue**
- 3rd **Darek Foti**

Molded Ornamental Candles

- 1st **Stephanie Killingsworth**
- 2nd **Lisa Hogue**
- 3rd **Sandy Good**
- VHC **Darek Foti**

Full Frame

- 1st **Michael Hogue**

Prison Honey

- 1st **Lee Arrendale S.P.**

Black Jar

- 1st **Darek Foti**

BEST IN SHOW



Stephanie Killingsworth
Varietal Extracted Honey
(Sourwood)



[Please note: VHC = Very Highly Commendable, HC = Highly Commendable, C = Commendable]

GBA 2018 FALL CONFERENCE



Above: the Board meeting on Thursday night at our new venue Lanier Tech. Far right: We voted electronically, for the first time! Below: Speaker Amy Weeks demonstrates during her queen rearing talk.



Above left: the Honey Judges had a lot of work, with a larger than usual number of entries. Great work everyone!

Photos by: Steve Page and Holly Bayendor.

GBA 2018 FALL CONFERENCE



Above left: Comb honey good enough to eat! Cookies provided by Forsyth County Beeks - Thank you! Below center: Kathy Bourn sells raffle tickets. Below right: Bobby Chaisson and Steve Page take a break to chat.



Above left: Bobby Thanepohn polishes what was to be the winning wax block. Above right: Katie Goodman checks in Jay Parson's show entries. The Honey Show line was almost to the door!

CLUB MEETINGS

If your club's information is incorrect [here](#), please contact Holly at hollybayendor@yahoo.com. If it's incorrect on the website please click [here](#). Club Presidents, please [click here](#) to fill out this form, for next month's meeting info.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, October 1		Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	*See Special Event location* Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, October 16	*Special Event: Club dinner Papa's Place 3651 Dawson Forest Rd. E. Dawsonville, Ga 30534*	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, October 11	Round table discussion	wnorris5@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909		Thursday, October 25		Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 16		arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 9	Honey Show and discussion for winter prep, and varroa	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, October 8	Julia Mahood, The Secret Life of Drones	marymom51@gmail.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, October 11		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, October 17		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Tuesday, October 7		Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 9		beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, October 18		sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802		Monday, October 8		tnorman@augustaga.gov	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, October 8		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, October 8		danssweetbees@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 23		thezechmans@yahoo.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, October 1	Christina Echezarreta, Art and the Beekeeper	EPBAPres@gmail.com and/or danielreid-long@gmail.com	Clarke
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, October 11		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, October 25		baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 16		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 9		hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, October 18	Broadus Williams	mlacksen@gmail.com	Hancock

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CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

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Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	First Baptist Church, 95 W. Bowman St., Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, November 1	Dan Long and Dave Miller will talk about beekeeping in Scotland and Australia, respectively.	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, October 30		info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, October 4	MBA Members Honey Contest	ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday 6:30pm/7pm	Tuesday, October 16	Multiple topics: Lip Balm, Swarm Traps, Oxalic Zaporizer, Giving a Bee Talk, etc.	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, GA 30512	2nd Tuesday	Tuesday, October 9		abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	*Special Event: 6306 Highway 441 South Lakemont, GA 30552* [Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523]	*Special Event* [2nd Thursday, 6:30pm]	*Sat, Oct. 13* [Thursday, October 11]	*EVENT w/TriCounty* Tour of Blue Ridge Honey Co. and hotdog social	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday 7pm	Monday, October 8	Small group round table discussions led by several members. Also, officer nominations will be discussed.	ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:30pm/6:30pm	Thursday, October 25		secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, October 15		joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132		Monday, October 8		victor@makinhoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Rm, 245 East Ave, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 9:30 am	Saturday, October 6	Steve Altom, Hive Conditions Quiz	polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7pm	Thursday, October 18		potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in Jan.			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Education Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, October 11		info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, October 15		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 2		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, October 8	Christine Fortuin, PhD, Native Pollinators	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	[2nd Monday], 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 18		tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, October 15	Dan Scales, A Year in the Apiary [Last Meeting for 2018]	neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm	Monday, October 8		twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, October 16		waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, October 22	Annual Honey Show and round table discussion	kingapiary@gmail.com	Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Appalachian Beekeepers Association

For our September meeting **Nicholas Weaver** spoke about Fall and Winter Colony management. He provided much advice for heading into fall and winter such as consolidating and combining weak hives, nutrition – carbs vs. protein, types of feeders, preventing robbing and late season re-queening.



Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County



Our club holds our yearly fund raiser by selling honey at the **Gwinnett County Fair**. Many of our customers come back year after year and look forward to speaking with us about the state of the honeybee. The observation hive was a great success and the lotion bars along with lip balm made by our club members were also a hit. We



always enjoy sharing our knowledge with the visitors and each year we pick up several new members as a result. What a great opportunity to let everyone know what they can do to help the bees!

Kelley Campbell was our speaker in September. She did a great job preparing our members for the upcoming Honey Show at our club and for the GBA Spring Meeting. The extra tips about what to do and what to not do, were appreciated.

Our **Honey Show** will be held at our **October 9th meeting**. Since we only have 1 show each year we cover most categories at this show. The new members especially enjoy looking at the entries and anticipating what they can submit once they start harvesting their own honey. We are also having an open forum at this meeting to discuss whatever the members want us to cover, but we full well expect the questions will be related to winter preparation and the Varroa hive sampling and treatment suggestions. This is always a good meeting with great questions by the members.

Beekeepers of Gilmer County

Congratulations to the members of Beekeepers of Gilmer County for passing their Georgia Beekeeper Certification Exams. BGC membership spent 5 months this year working through Keith Delaplanes “First Lessons in Beekeeping” in preparation for the exam. Monthly meetings were dedicated to chapter studies for all members, not only those taking the exam. “We gained so much knowledge and improved our beekeeping skills.” said Mary Lou Blohm.” Many thanks to Keith Delaplane and UGA for supporting our efforts and making this educational experience possible.

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association (CEBA)

The Coastal Empire Beekeepers Assn. was not able to have its regular September meeting at the Oatland Island Wildlife Center. It is still closed to the public due to tornado damage. **Savannah Bee Co.** came to our rescue and invited CEBA to meet at its Wilmington Island store. Guest speaker **Freya Zipperer** – a native Savannahian, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and retired educator – spoke about what to plant to benefit bees and other pollinators in our area, with an emphasis on native species. She also donated more than a dozen plants to the club raffle. CEBA will be promoting beekeeping at Savannah Bee Co.'s **Fall Harvest Festival** on Oct. 20, noon-5 p.m.

Oglethorpe County Beekeepers Club



On August 18th – **National Honey Bee Day** – Oglethorpe County Bee Club and Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association held their 5th annual joint picnic called the **Honey Bee Jamboree**. It's a potluck, fundraiser raffle and generally good time to share with friends and see how the beekeeping season has gone so far. One of the highlights of the day is the **Black Jar Honey Contest**. Each beekeeper may submit one sample of their most recent harvest and everyone attending votes on their top three favorites. This year, **1st Place went to Dale Hawbaker, 2nd Place to Dan Long and 3rd Place to Cory Momany.**



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

Lake Country Beekeepers Association **7th Annual Short Course** will be held on: **Saturday, January 26th** 9am - 4pm, at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Sparta, GA.

Speakers will include: **Bob Binnie, Keith & Rose Anne Fielder**, and **Bruce Morga**. Contact **Mary Lacksen** for registration information – mlacksen@gmail.com

Our speaker this month will be **Broadus Williams**, Thursday Oct. 18th. Our speaker for November will be **Dr. Keith Delaplaine** of the UGA Bee Lab. We will meet on Thursday, Nov. 15.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Our November 1st meeting features a global beekeeping adventure. **Dan Long** shares everything he learned on a beekeeping trip to Scotland and **Dave Miller** tells us about his experience at the beekeeping congress in Australia. The meeting starts at 7pm with refreshments and bee talk at 6:30pm.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association had it's annual Picnic, Auction and Honey Show on September 16. 99 people were in attendance, and a good time was had by all.

With 70 entries, the honey show was a smashing success! Congrats to **Bobby Chaisson** who's sourwood honey won **best in show**.



October's meeting will have a workshop format. Folks can choose from the following workshops and attend two: Make a swarm trap; Make lip balm; Learn to give beekeeping presentations; Learn to use an oxalic vaporizer; Learn to use the club's honey straw machine.

Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Association



The **Honey Show** at the **Chattahoochee Fair** was a great success! **Jim Ritchie** was the \$100 winner for his black jar entry and **Michael Killingsworth** won the **Best in Show**.

The **Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers** took part in the Habersham County's **Farm Day**. On September 7th, we brought the world of bees to 475 fourth grade students.

At our September meeting, **Michael Minardi** taught us how to make mead. He brought equipment to demonstrate and we even began a batch of mead that night.

We are really looking forward to our October meeting. It is going to be on **Saturday, October 13th**, at the **Blue Ridge Honey Company**. We are getting a private tour of their facility along with members of the Tri-County Beekeepers. Afterwards we will participate in a hot dog social.

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

TriCounty Beekeepers of Georgia had a great time at our September monthly meeting. Several of the members met early to do mite counts and treatments in the club bee yard and then we all met for a round table question and answer time. **Bobby Chaisson** (Blue Sky Honey), **Stacy Roberts** (Bee Faithful Farms), **Wade Dale** (Granna Bees) and **Don Kuchenmeister** (The Fat Bee Man) was available to answer questions which ranged from mite control to feeding and winter maintenance to Queen rearing and hive configuration. It was a great time for new beekeepers to have their questions answered.

The club was also represented by **Stacy Roberts** of Bee Faithful Farms at Banks County Primary School. Banks County 2nd graders have been reading a book entitled *When I was Young In the Mountains*. They had lessons on soap making, butter churning, farming, and beekeeping. The classes were extremely interested in beekeeping and it was a great opportunity to introduce the kids to the world of bees and beekeepers.

On **November 6** several club members will be at the **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** in **Gainesville, GA** for **Fall Woodland Ramble** where they will be talking to the public about beekeeping, pollinators, and the hives that the club maintains on the botanical gardens property.

Our next scheduled meeting will be **October 8th** when **Christine Fortuin** will join us to speak about Native Pollinators. Christine is a PHD student at UGA in the Wanell School of Forestry and Natural resources, forestry entomology division.

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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Troup County Beekeepers Association



We had our second annual **Honey Tasting Contest** in August. **Edward Rodgers** took first place.

Dan Scales will be speaking on a Year in the Apiary on Oct. 15th.

Our club will be speaking to 200-300 4th and 5th graders at the Roosevelt SWCD's **Annual Wildlife Field Day** on **Oct. 5th**. We will have an observation hive after our presentation for the children to see.

We will not have any meetings in November or December.



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

The September 24th, 2018 guest speaker will be **Jennifer Leavey**, Director, **Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project**. She will be speaking on “Which varroa treatments work best” and the progress of the bee project at Georgia Tech. Mentoring begins at 6:30 pm and the program begins at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall located at 6449 Bankhead Hwy Douglasville, GA 30134.

October 13, 2018 the club will have a booth at the Greystone Power Annual Meeting.

October 22, 2018 the club will have their annual honey show and a round table discussion.

November 3, 2018 the club will sponsor an adult short course in beginning bee keeping.

Spilling the Honey Next Month...

The summer should be over by now! Are they ready for the winter? Please share your stories and photos with us, at the email below.

gbanewsletters@gmail.com

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

Everyone was a winner at the Fall Elections.

GBA President:

LINDA TILLMAN



GBA Vice-President:

GINA GALLUCCI



New GBA Newsletter Co-Editor:

KATHY BOURN



Special thank you to Kathy for taking on the co-editor position with me. As such, Kathy will be a member of the Board of Directors.

– Holly

New GBA Directors:

BOBBY CHAISSON



BRUTZ ENGLISH



STEVE ESAU





Spilling *The* Honey

NOVEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bee-ing Thankful

As we enter November and Thanksgiving is almost here, I am so thankful for so much about GBA and beekeeping.

I am thankful for my wonderful officers and Board of Directors. **Gina** and I work hand in glove on every GBA project and I am so thankful for such a solid vice-president and for our ability to work well together. I am thankful for **Derrick Fowler**, the GBA secretary. He thinks of so many things that I do not and takes clear and competent minutes. He also sends out the get-well cards when we hear of a member who is ailing or has suffered a loss. I am thankful for **Paul Berry**, our treasurer. You've all seen him tirelessly manning the registration desk at conferences. He isn't someone who loves working in computer programs, but he has stepped up and learned what he needed to get the job done.

I am thankful for all the Board of Directors members. **Harvest Hoffman**, as our GBA webmaster, works weekly on the website and makes sure that she addresses emails from members as well as the many problems that arise. She also has done extra jobs, like setting up the name tags for printing for the state meetings and working on the bylaws committee. The directors themselves are hard workers. Our newest group of directors include **Steve Esau**, **Sophia Price**, **Bobby Chaisson**, **Slade Mercer**, **Jane Quattlebaum**, and **Brutz English**. Each of them wears a number of hats, in addition to working on the board. For example, Steve has presented at a number of our conferences; Sophia ran the Beekeeper of the Year committee; Bobby ran the election process at the fall meeting; Slade is now our Farm Bureau representative; Jane was secretary before she became a director; and Brutz runs the Honey Show Committee.

I am very, very thankful for the many others of you who do work for GBA. After the GBA Fall Conference, I wrote more than 48 thank you notes to the various people who helped. I can't possibly thank them all here, but want to notice a few in this bee-ing thankful moment. **Katie Goodman** does a masterful job of maintaining our Facebook page; **Kelley Campbell** helps organize the club meeting schedule for each newsletter; **Kathy Bourn** has stepped up to be the editor of the newsletter with **Holly Bayendor**, who is doing a fabulous job; **Dan Long** volunteers to help every time I turn around; **Gail Dean** worked hard to get our license plate passed; **Julia Mahood** is chairing our prison program. I'm sure someone has worked hard and I have left you out of this list. Just know that I am very thankful for you, even if I didn't remember to say it in this article.

In general, I am so very thankful for bees and beekeeping. The fuzzy little honey makers have brought so much joy and pleasure to my life. The best part, though, is that through the honey bee I have gotten to work with so many of you who are dear and wonderful people. Thank you for adding to my life and to beekeeping in Georgia.

Bee well and Happy Thanksgiving,

Linda T



Hurricane Michael

and our bees

– by Kathleen Bourn
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

What are some of the worst things nature can throw at honey bees? High wind, high water and high loss of forage are at the top of the list. Last month all three came together in a storm named **Michael**.

Beekeepers in Florida, Georgia and Alabama are trying to get a handle on the condition of their colonies as well as the plants the bees feed on and pollinate.

Right now the focus is on feeding the surviving bees. **Tony Hogg** with the **Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA)** says the storm took out every bit of forage there was, all at the peak of their fall flow. Most of the damage to the hives was from falling debris and covers being blown off.

Beekeepers reached out for help and they got it. Within days, seven tanker loads of syrup and 38-thousand pounds of pollen substitute were shipped. Most of the help came from the club's [GoFundMe](https://gofundme.com) page and **The Greater Good** organization <https://greatergood.org/>. Their goal right now: keep the remaining bees alive and beekeepers in business.

Dr. Jamie Ellis, professor of entomology at the University of Florida, says the next challenge is the threat of pests and disease taking hold of the weakened colonies. The stresses on the bees can have long term effects.



(Above) The Hurricane ravaged apiaries in FL, AL and GA. (Middle & Lower) Help arrives as volunteers supply equipment, pollen substitutes, and sugar syrup by the truckloads.

(continued)

Hurricane Michael

and our bees – (CONT'D)

FSBA is in contact with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to see that the concerns of the apiculture industry are heard. They would like to add input from Georgia and Alabama beekeepers. Many bee companies in the area are family owned and they're now in the situation of having to rebuild their businesses along with their homes.

Right now, damage assessments are difficult because beekeepers are having a hard time getting to many of their apiaries, especially in the swamps where Tupelo trees grow. With the loss of forage and bees, Hogg anticipates the Tupelo honey harvest will be poor for the next three years.

As we know, if anything can survive this event, it's the honey bees and their keepers.



GEORGIANS TRAVEL TO THE EMERALD ISLE – by *Brutz English*

GBA Honey Show Committee Chair and Senior Welsh Honey Judge, Brutz English, was invited to help judge the **Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers** 2018 Honey Show. This year's INIB honey show was held on October 20th at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island, Northern Ireland. The INIB honey show is one of the largest in the United Kingdom. This year's INIB honey show had 283 entries across forty-four (44) different competitive classes.



The annual honey show is part of the INIB Fall Conference. **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, of the UGA Honeybee Lab, and co-founder of the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute was the keynote speaker at this year's INIB Conference. In addition to several informative presentations, Dr. Delaplane led the closing ceremonies of the conference with a rousing performance on the bagpipes.



Both Delaplane and English were invited to participate in the INIB event by Michael Young. **Michael Young** is past Chairman and founding member of the INIB. Michael is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. In 2008, Michael was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for his services to apiculture and conservation. Michael was invited as Beekeeper Advisor to the Obama White House. He has exhibited beekeeping products across the world, and is an advisor and mentor to honey judges across the globe.



Georgia National Fair

Honey Show

– by Kathleen Bourn
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

The GA National Fair in Perry hosted a honey show with ribbons, cash prizes, and a beautiful trophy for Best in Show.

Bear Kelley and **Brutz English** were the judges, and many were able to study under them. Show secretary was **Sheryl Brousseau**. Stewards were **Darek Foti**, **Josh Wells**, **Sandy Good**, and **William Good**.

Mike Conner of Forsyth County Beekeepers, took 2nd (highest awarded in category) for wax block.

Kelley Campbell also of Forsyth County Beekeepers, took 2nd (highest awarded in categories) for creamed honey and light extracted, and 1st and Best in Show for amber extracted.



Top: Wax block from Mike Conner. Left: Extracted honeys and Best in Show Award for Kelley Campbell. Above: Brutz English and Bear Kelley award Kelley Campbell at the GA National Fair in Perry, GA.



Art at LEE ARRENDALE

– by Julia Mahood



Beekeepers at Lee Arrendale State Prison learned the art of keeping bees. Now they've experienced the honey bees as art.

Cristina Echezarreta, UGA graduate student studying art, got interested in beekeeping at UGA and got a grant to do art projects at prisons with beekeeping programs. She and UGA photographer Nancy Evelyn, came to the beekeeping class at Lee Arrendale State Prison.

Cristina brought in paints and decoupage supplies, and the beekeeping class used them to decorate deep hive bodies. It was a lovely morning of community and creativity.

Photos by Nancy Evelyn.



This art by Sonya Bamberg, Journeyman beekeeper at Lee Arrendale State Prison. It will be published in a coloring book along with other inmate artwork.



HAVE A WINTER WORKSHOP MEETING

– by *Julia Mahood*
President, Metro Atlanta

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association generally has a speaker at each monthly meeting, but in October we tried something new. We had a hands-on workshop meeting which consisted of two half-hour sessions with five topics to choose from. The board had brainstormed a long list of possible topics, but we narrowed it down by picking things that are good off-season tasks, using a more hands-on teaching format rather than the typical Powerpoint presentations. This is the list of our offerings:

Make a Swarm Trap with Linda Tillman

Swarm season has a way of sneaking up on us, but you'll be ready with this simple swarm trap. In this workshop you'll make a swarm trap to take home (while supplies last) and learn where and how to set it up at home. Linda will be assisted by Jeff Daniel.

How to make Lip Balm with Bobby Chaisson

Got wax? Bobby will show you how to use your beeswax and a few additional ingredients to make yummy lip balms. These make great holiday gifts!

Making Honey Straws with Brandon Tai

MABA owns a honey straw maker that members are welcome to check out at any time. Brandon will show you how to use this equipment, so you'll be ready to check out the kit to make honey straws from your own harvest. Again, honey straws make great stocking stuffers!

How to use an Oxalic Acid Vaporizer with Daniel Goodridge

If you've ever been intimidated by this treatment

method, this is your chance to learn how to safely and effectively vaporize oxalic. While this skill does not end up with a great holiday gift, you can give those winter mites a death sentence by treating them in January, as recommended by UGA experts.

How to do a Beekeeping Presentation with Julia Mahood

MABA gets requests all year long for folks to speak to schools and other groups about honey bees and beekeeping. This workshop will show you how to use the props in MABA's Speaker Kit to make engaging presentations about bees.

We didn't ask for folks to sign up ahead of time. The one gamble was purchasing the supplies to make the swarm traps, but it worked out perfectly - prepared for 48 swarm traps, 44 were made by members and the four that were left were given to speakers who couldn't make the session.

We meet at a church and were able to use classrooms on one hall, (and an outdoor courtyard for the oxalic demonstration) so the five-minute break to switch worked out well.

Everyone seemed to love the meeting, members walked out carrying swarm traps, lip balm, and honey straws, with full brains! Calendar-wise, it works well to do something like this in October. I have a feeling this will be an annual event for MABA.

Honey Show Calendar



GBA is working on a list of honey shows all over the state to have on the website. This will help us all be aware of shows nearby we can enter. It'll also help those studying to be Welsh Honey Judges earn the necessary points. Please be sure your club is sending in their Wufoo form each month so we can have a complete list by this time next year. Also, contact us here: gbanewsletters@gmail.com



ASK AUNT BEE!

“How, when and why should I feed my bees to prepare for the winter?”

– answered by Cory Momany

Let's address the question of **why feed** first. Because our Georgia winters are relatively warm, with many days above 50°F, our bees will be flying in search of

food. There is none for them to find, and they use up honey looking. Those issues, combined with a summer dearth and a weak fall bloom, means our bees can starve just before spring comes because they lack adequate stored honey. Honey provides the energy needed for the bees to keep warm.

To overwinter in Georgia, an average hive needs at least 40-50 lbs of honey and several frames of pollen. One can achieve that minimum with a medium super full of honey in addition to a deep brood box. On a warm day, count the honey frames in each hive. Multiply the number of full frames of honey (in both boxes) by either 7 lbs (deep frame) or 5 lbs (medium). If you are short, you need to feed your bees, and you don't have a lot of time.

To speed the feeding process, you will use concentrated sugar water. The appropriate feeding solution is a 2:1 sugar to water by weight. The “by weight” throws people, since we don't usually measure water by weight. For making small amounts, dump a 4lb sugar bag into a large stock pan and add 32 fluid oz boiling water. What is special about 2:1? That's the most concentrated you can make a sugar water mix at room-temperature. If it cools, it will crystallize.

You want as much sugar going into the hive as possible. Now, how to do that? You have many choices, but probably the best choice is a top feeder on the inner cover. Top feeders are easy to refill without disturbing the hive, and their solution is kept warm enough for the bees to feed by heat rising through the inner cover. Top feeders need to have supers around them to protect them from the cold and to support the



(continued)



ASK AUNT BEE!

– (CONT'D)

“How, when and why should I feed my bees to prepare for the winter?”

top cover. Access to the feeder by outside bees must be blocked, so watch the notch of the inner cover. Robbing is common now, so close the front entrance down with an entrance reducer and don't put a Boardman feeder on the outside where it will get too cold anyway. Boardman feeders can be safely used as top feeders, but there are better devices (google “top feeder”).

Along with sugar water, you can feed the bees a pollen substitute outside the hives. Sugar provides energy, but pollen makes new bees. A short piece of large-diameter PVC pipe works as a pollen feeder when placed in a tree fork. Using pollen patties in Georgia is not advised because

small hive beetles will make better use of them than bees (i.e. they become maggot farms). One last point, in the spring if you must rescue a starving hive, the appropriate solution is 1:1 sugar water.



Cory Momany
Associate Professor
UGA College of Pharmacy
*Certified Beekeeper
Keeps Bees in
Watkinsville Georgia*



THE HISTORY OF HONEY IN GEORGIA

Beekeeper or not, anyone who travels the Golden Isles Parkway through the town of Gardi, Georgia, can't help but turn their head when they see the “**FANCY HONEY**” sign. It's big and bold on the weathered brick building that housed The Altamaha Apiaries. Local stories say it dates from 1900 and served as a store and post office before housing the honey company.

If you know of an historic apiary or honey company in our state, please share the history of honey in Georgia by sending it to *Spilling the Honey* at gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Be sure to go through Wayne County when the wisteria is in bloom. When you see the sign and the sun hits the building just right, you'll swear you can smell the fancy honey.



Do It Yourself Certification

– by Susan Wells
Beekeepers of Gilmer County

The mission of Gilmer County Bee Club is to create better beekeepers. To fulfill that mission, President **Mary Lou Blohm** led the way by making a **Certified Beekeeper** course available as part of club membership.

The University of Georgia's Certified Beekeeping Program is offered at the Young Harris College campus each May as part of the Beekeeping Institute. We realized many of our members might not be able to travel to the three day course or afford the fees. We decided a DIY option was the way to go.



First we contacted **Dr. Keith Delaplane** who runs the Honey Bee Program at UGA. He met with us to describe the course work and testing procedure.

Club president Blohm went to Young Harris in May and took the test so she could help members understand how best to prepare and so she could better organize the testing.

We set about creating a series of courses to be offered at the Gilmer county monthly meetings. Working off Dr. Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, each meeting was structured around two chapters. The courses were led by our club's most experienced beekeepers.

The classes were interactive and lively and brought out attendees we hadn't seen before. Perhaps the best teaching happened as everyone at the meeting participated in coming up with answers and learning ways to think about beekeeping in practical ways.

We also used our club apiary and monthly club inspection sessions to talk about what we've learned and what

we're seeing in the hive. Many students found out that the bees don't read the books.

After five meetings and an intensive review session, it was time for the testing. We enlisted the generous help of **Bob Grant**, journeyman beekeeper from Mountain Beekeepers in Clayton, GA, to supervise the testing. **Susan Wells**, our apiary committee leader and the only certified beekeeper

in the club until this year, and **Steven Towe**, longtime commercial beekeeper and one of our most active and knowledgeable members, took each member through the testing procedure, which included opening a hive, pulling frames, reading the frames and answering questions about what we were seeing. Then the written portion of the test was supervised by Mary Lou Blohm.

UGA sent out the certificates to all those who passed both parts of the test. Not everyone who took the test was successful, but more than 25 percent of our active members received certification. Not only are these new certified keepers better beekeepers themselves, they are ready to take on leadership roles and mentor newbies. Our aim of raising all our beekeeping boats was met and the entire club moved forward substantially.

We recommend the idea to other clubs and are happy to help other club leaders who want to try it.

CLUB MEETINGS

If your club's information is incorrect [here](#), please contact Holly at hollybayendor@yahoo.com. If it's incorrect on the website please click [here](#). Club Presidents, please [click here](#) to fill out this form, for next month's meeting info.

Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, November 5		Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, November 20	Q&A on Winter Preparations	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, November 8		wnorris5@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909		Thursday, November 22		Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 20		arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 13	Election of officers. Harold Lanier, Winter Preparation.	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, November 12		marymom51@gmail.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, November 8		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, November 21		cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, November 12		Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg, 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 13	Randy Rolen, missionary work for Jamaican apiaries.	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pky, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, November 15		spposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802		Monday, December 10		tnorman@augustaga.gov	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, November 12		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, November 12	Jennifer Leavy, UT Urban Beekeeping Project	danssweetbees@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 27		thezechmans@yahoo.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, December 3	Linda Tillman, Simple Beekeeping.	EPBAPres@gmail.com and/or danielreid-long@gmail.com	Clarke
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, November 8		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, November 22		baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 20		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 13		hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, November 15	Keith Delaplane, Director of UGA Honey Bee Program	mlacksen@gmail.com	Hancock

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CLUB MEETINGS – (CONT'D)

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Club Name	Meeting Location	Meeting Schedule	Meeting Date	Speaker & Topic	Club Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	First Baptist Church, 95 W. Bowman St., Lavonia, GA 30553	1st Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, December 6	Holiday potluck dinner and honey bee trivia game.	lakehartwellbeekeepers@gmail.com	Franklin
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, November 27		info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon, 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, November 1		ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday 6:30pm/7pm	Tuesday, November 20	Keith Delaplane, PhD	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	Blairsville Campus of North GA Technical College, GA 30512	2nd Tuesday	Tuesday, November 13		abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	*Special Event: 6306 Highway 441 South Lakemont, GA 30552* [Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523]	*Special Event* [2nd Thursday, 6:30pm]	Thursday, November 8	Harold Lanier, Honey Bee Biology. Also, elections, we need your input!	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday 7pm	Monday, November 12		ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:30pm/6:30pm	Thursday, November 29		secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	**Monday,** November 26	Kathy Bourn, Top Bar Hives. **4th Monday due to Thanksgiving**	joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132		Monday, November 12		victor@makinhoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown Library Meeting Rm, 245 East Ave, Cedartown, GA 30125	1st Saturday, 9:30 am	Saturday, November 3		polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7pm	Thursday, November 15	TBD	potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in Jan.			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Education Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, November 8		info@sowegabeekeepers.org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, November 19		maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 6		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, November 12	Dan Long, Beekeeping in Scotland	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	[2nd Monday], 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 20	Derick E Forester, Winter Management	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	No meeting in November	(No meetings in November or December.)	neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm	Monday, November 12	Geoffery Duesterbeck (UGA Extension – McIntosh County Extension Coordinator/ANR Agent), native Pollinator Plants in our area	twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, November 20		waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, November 26		kingapiary@gmail.com	Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County



Our **October Honey Show** this year was another spectacular one. We had great art, photography, gadgets and of course honey. One of the gadgets was unique and we wanted to share the idea with others. A club member uses a spent 16 GA shotgun shell to plug her smoker once she is done with it. Such a simple solution yet very effective. Everyone that participated had a good time and we want to thank **Nicholas Weaver** for once again being our Welsh Honey Judge.



November 13th meeting: Election of officers (all positions open). **Harold Lanier**, from Lanier Bee Barn, speaks to our club yearly and the topic this time is "Final Winter Preparation, Heat Profiles of the Hive, and What to do when it starts warming up in the Spring".

Oglethorpe County Beekeepers Club

Our October meeting was an excellent overview of winter preparations by **Dan Harris** of **Booger Hill Bee Company**. He talked about the importance of healthy, well fed bees going into winter.



Member **Cory Momany** brought in an insulated plastic seven frame hive with all sorts of interesting capabilities. The frames themselves even split to accept foundation. It can even be turned into a twin three frame nuc box! It's made by Apimaye and is based on a 1st place winner in Beehive Innovations Award in **Apimondia** International Apicultural Congress.

We're looking forward to hearing how it performs for Cory.

We also accepted nominations for our upcoming elections.

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

The club is settling in nicely to its beautiful meeting room on the UGA campus. It has all the latest audio visual gizmos and plenty of room for members and guests.

We had a very interesting meeting in October with MFA Candidate and beekeeping enthusiast **Cristina Echezarreta**. She reviewed various artists who work with bees or are inspired by them, including herself. She also discussed the **prison beekeeping program** and her involvement with it.

Forsyth County Beekeepers

We hosted our annual honey show last month and handed out numerous prizes. This was the first year monetary prizes were offered, and it seemed to help motivate people to enter. If you didn't enter any honey shows this year, put it on the calendar for next year!

Many thanks to **Rodney Garner** for judging our honey show! As you can see from the long list below, it was quite a bit of work. We're grateful to **Mike Conner** for being our show secretary, and to **Ann Shelton** for being show steward.



Black Jar

1st place: Nedal Shawkat

Best in Show

Bobby Thanepohn – Creamed Honey

Light Extracted

1st place: Terry Holbrook

2nd place: Ray Supple

3rd place: Kelley Campbell

Very Highly Commendable: Bobby Thanepohn

Highly Commendable: Mark Revill

Chunk Honey

1st place: Terry Holbrook

Amber Extracted

1st place: Kelley Campbell

2nd place: Bobby Thanepohn

3rd place: Cooper Clark

Highly Commendable: Tina Misko

Photography

1st place: Bobby Thanepohn

2nd place: Ray Supple

3rd place: Cooper Clark



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CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers Association



(Above) Curtis Williams, Rose Anne Fielder and Broadus Williams at the October LCBA meeting.

We held our monthly meeting on Thursday, October 18th in Sparta, Georgia.

We welcomed **Broadus Williams** who shared his enthusiasm for and knowledge of bees and beekeeping in his presentation “**Keys To Rearing The Best Queens**”. In 2011, Broadus started beekeeping with one hive

and today he manages over 200 hives near Roberta, Georgia. The beekeepers that helped him learn and perfect queen rearing techniques include: **Michael Palmer, Jay Smith** and **Terry Hester** (Georgia Bee Supply in Chula, Georgia). The key points of Broadus’ technique include: feeding, understanding why bees rear queens, not quitting on your first grafting attempt, and keeping good records.

In addition, the LCBA membership unanimously voted to make a **\$200 contribution** to the **Florida State Beekeepers Association** GoFundMe campaign to assist those beekeepers affected by Hurricane Michael. We look forward to hosting **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, Director of the UGA Honey Bee Program at our next meeting on Thursday, November 15th. Come join us!

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Our December 6th meeting is a chance to put your honey bee knowledge where your mouth is. We’ll share a potluck dinner and then have a rousing bee trivia game. Prizes will be things beekeepers don’t need but really really want. Even if you don’t win, everyone will learn a little more about their favorite bug. Join us at 6:30pm in the Youth Building behind The First Baptist Church of Lavonia.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



Stephanie and **Stu Harvey**, first year beekeepers with MABA, topped off an eight week Honey Bee unit at the **Stonehaven School** in Marietta.

October’s meeting had a workshop format. Members choose from five workshops (all could attend two). It was

a great success, and the club looks to doing this again next year. The November 20th meeting is our director election, and **Dr. Keith Delaplane** will speak.

Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Association



Our last meeting was held on a Saturday when we partnered with the **Tri-County Beekeepers Association**. We got together for a tour of the **Blue Ridge Honey Company**

in Lakemont. Owner **Bob Binnie** taught us some of the lessons he’s learned in the bee and honey business. Afterwards we had a hot dog social with everyone bringing their own favorite toppings!



This month we will be listening to **Harold Lanier** about bee biology. Also this month’s meeting is super important as it is

election time!! We’re hoping for attendance to be strong.

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

On **November 6** several club members will be at the **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** in **Gainesville, GA** for **Fall Woodland Ramble** where they will be talking to the public about beekeeping, pollinators, and the hives that the club maintains on the botanical gardens property.

Troup County Beekeepers Association



Troup County Assoc. of Beekeepers shared their beekeeping knowledge with 300 grade school children at the Roosevelt SWCD’s Youth Wildlife Field Day.

Bill Brantley is the club’s new president and he’ll start the year at Troup County’s next meeting in **January**.

(No meetings in November and December.)



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

November 3, 2018 the club will sponsor an adult short course in beginning bee keeping.





Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As winter enters Georgia, our bees slow down and so does our beekeeping. I love seeing the bees flying on a day with temperatures above 50 when some usually venture out. But mostly bees in winter are pretty quiet and contained.

As a beekeeper, I find that the winter is a time for a number of tasks. Personally I use it to make soap, lip balm, and lotion bars. I also tend to clean and organize my basement (which gets really chaotic during bee season). I catch up on some bee reading of books and magazines, untouched during the busier times of year.

GBA stays pretty busy during the winter. The meeting committee is working hard to plan and organize our spring meeting. We'll be in the east side of the state in February at **Augusta University Summerville Campus**. Brutz, Gina and I visited the site a few weeks ago and it looks like a great place for our one day spring meeting on February 16. We'll have a speaker dinner on Friday night, February 15, so make your plans to join us for that as well. It's always fun to get together with our bee buddies over food!

Our spring meeting includes the artisan honey show where the entries are mead, culinary goodies, photography, needlework of all kinds, lotions and potions, and inventions/gadgets, among other categories. The winter is a great time to ready your entries for this very creativity-oriented show. The rules for each category are on the [GBA website](#). I know I am practicing by baking some new recipes for homemade bread made with honey.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice, I hope your holidays are happy ones and that you find ways to keep bees and beekeeping present in your life while the bees are quietly clustering in their hives!

Bee Well and Happy Holidays,

Linda T



Our GA Beekeepers in the news

– by Kathleen Bourn

If you weren't fast enough to acquire one of the first place creamed honey jars at the GBA Fall Conference, like I was, you missed out. It was produced by **Bobby Thanepohn** and **Ryan McDonald**. They are the beekeepers behind **Bobbee MacBees Apiaries** (now you know how they came up with that name). These two military veterans have worked on their company for only three years but they make the most out of the products from their bees.

They also make time to let the non-beekeeping public know more about honey bees and what they make. Most of the Bobbee MacBees hives are in the Dahlonega area and these keepers were recently profiled by Nick Bowman at the *GainesvilleTimes*. ([Click here.](#))

In the story, McDonald and Thanepohn educate the readers about how creamed honey is made, what "varietal" honey is all about and how beeswax blocks are judged. Knowing how to get the best wax out of the hive was their first step toward also winning the top prize for beeswax block at GBA.

Bobbee MacBees is now onto meade making and other beekeeping adventures.

Let us know if you hear of another Georgia Beekeeper in the news and we'll pass it on. www.gbaneletters@gmail.com



A word about:

The Spring Conference

– by *Brutz English*

The Spring Conference will be here before you know it, and with it will be the **2019 Spring Artisan Show!** We have all of your old favorites at this year's Artisan show plus several **NEW** categories! Beeswax sculpture, beeswax flowers, honey condiment, floral display, decorative display, and children's illustrations are the new additions to this year's show, bringing

the total number of competitive categories to twenty-four! Remember, each first prize ribbon comes with a **\$100.00** bill, and the Best in Show winner takes home another **\$500.00!** We can't wait to see you all in **Augusta on February 16th!** The complete rules for this year's Artisan Show can be found [here](#).



Beeswax Flowers and Decorative Displays from the 2018 INIB Honey Show.



RECRUITING HONEY BEE AMBASSADORS

– by *Drew Harvey*
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

And then it happened. A fellow club member of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers asked me to speak at the local Rotary Club. “You mean like in front of everyone? What would I talk about?” Well, I was quickly assured it would be great, and I could just talk about the importance of honey bees and some of the challenges they face. I wasn’t convinced, but I didn’t see a way out either.

I reminded myself that I talk to people about keeping bees all the time. It usually starts when I share that I am a beekeeper, and then the questions just start flowing. So, I decided I would put some notes together on honey bee trivia and other points of interest and try to step through it for my 30 minute presentation. I felt somewhat better and a little bit prepared but I was still uncomfortable speaking to a large group like the Rotary Club.

The day arrived. As I stepped to the podium, I decided I would kick things off and try to engage the audience by asking if anyone knew a beekeeper. Several hands went up which made me feel better; at least there were some people in the group who knew a beekeeper; hopefully one they liked! Then I asked if anyone had a question about honey bees? Immediately someone asked “I’ve heard all the bees are dying off or disappearing and no one knows what’s going on. Is that true?” So I responded and offered a more accurate perspective on the challenges facing honey bees and beekeepers and before I finished, another hand went up. “So I heard that eating local honey is good for your allergies. Is that true?” Again, I responded to the question and before I realized it, twenty five minutes had passed and I was still answering questions from the audience. I actually covered most of my prepared comments but the entire presentation was just a typical conversation about honey bees and beekeeping. The only difference was the size of the group in the conversation.

I wrapped up the discussion and shared my belief that hobby beekeepers will play a significant role in



sustaining honey bees. I invited them to join a club meeting if they were interested in learning more. I also reminded them they were officially honey bee ambassadors now with all the rights and privileges that title afforded them.

So what started out as a nerve-racking request, resulted in a highly engaging and educational discussion that I thoroughly enjoyed. It’s easy to share what you know with others and I would encourage other beekeepers to rise to the occasion if someone approaches you. And if you are worried that you don’t know enough, just share your own experiences like you would with a friend. As a contingency plan, you can always take a couple of jars of honey as door prizes on the day of your presentation. That’s a guaranteed crowd pleaser!



HOW TO SET UP A SUCCESSFUL BEE SCHOOL

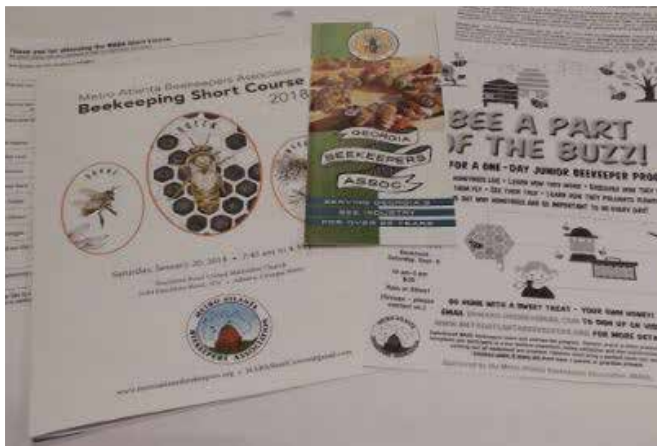
– by Kelley Campbell
Forsyth County Beekeepers

The way honey bees expand their genetics is by swarming. The way honey bee clubs do it is by putting on bee schools or short courses. This is one of the best ways to bring in new blood to our beekeeping world. Kelley Campbell is a certified beekeeper and veteran bee school organizer and offers this advice:

Bee Schools can range in cost from \$40 to \$150. They can be one full day or multiple/part day courses. Many times club membership is included.

Factors to Consider

- Date – temperature for live bees; early enough for students to prep and purchase; single or multiple day format
- Location – accommodate number of people; AV equipment; food
- Speakers – volunteers from club / community or paid
- Mentors – members of the club who are able and willing to help newbies throughout the year
- Food / Refreshments – catered or club grill / potluck



- Printed Material / Books – create and print / order (many extension offices will let you use printing / binding equipment if you supply paper and ink cartridge)

Vendors

- Include vendor(s) at bee school
- Provide Catalogs
- Many will donate raffle prizes

Most Importantly, You Need...

- Time to plan.
 - think months, not weeks
- People to help.
 - call on anyone available
 - knowledgeable beekeepers, organizational people, easy to talk to people
 - experienced keepers in the club who will mentor throughout the year
- Strong, streamlined and easy to understand curriculum.



Do...

- Have a planning meeting, a few months in advance, to:
 - designate assignments among volunteers and assign alternates
 - verify a location
 - view the location, AV equipment, restrooms, lunch area, etc.

(continued)

Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

HOW TO SET UP A SUCCESSFUL BEE SCHOOL – (CONT'D)

– by *Kelley Campbell*

- Advertise the bee school in local papers, Facebook, NextDoor, (social media), etc.
- Check with neighboring bee clubs to see if/when their bee school is. Smaller clubs, and/or those in more remote areas, may want to combine forces to host a joint school. Talk to your local GBA representative for guidance/networking.



Last Minute Items...the Day Before & Day Of

- Stuff folders / bags. Mentor phone numbers.
- Name tags. Note veteran keepers and beginners to easily network.
- Set up tables, chairs, demo booths, props, raffle prizes, and anything you possibly can.
- Make sure AV Equipment works. Check / stock the restrooms.
- Directional signs / balloons.
- Snacks and refreshments.
- Take pictures!

Afterwards

- Survey your students.
- Google Doc is free & easy to use.
- Include link to presentations as a “Thank You” for completing the survey.
- Thank your contributors.
- Speakers
- Vendors
- Volunteers from the club
- Location host

Please share your bee school information using the Wufoo form GBA sends around the 15th each month. Consider sharing your agenda, handouts, and presentation, as well, so we can have a strong collection of resources for others.

Any advice, questions or ideas, email Kelley Campbell at kellygirl53@hotmail.com

Don't...

- Procrastinate
- Assume
- Be afraid to ask for help / volunteers / raffle donations

Months Before...

- Arrange speakers and support for the bee school.
- Call vendors to get donations for raffle prizes.
- Spread the Word – create an image to share.
- Social Media (FB - sponsored post)
- Free community pages (The Patch) and flyers on community boards

note where you put them so that you can remove them

- Libraries and other continuing education resources
- GA Beekeepers Assn, nearby beekeeping and garden clubs
- Online Sign Up (free using Sign Up Genius and / or Google Docs)

THE HISTORY OF HONEY IN GEORGIA

Harold Ward

– by Karen Palmer

Harold Ward is a pioneer in the history of honey in Georgia. This month he turns 83 years young. He has kept bees since 1975, long before the hype and popularity of beekeeping.

Harold got his start in beekeeping after he began using honey for his health. He used to buy so much honey that he decided to go into beekeeping. These days he often jokes about retiring, however in all seriousness, his passion for bees is a lifetime pursuit. He has contributed so much to beekeepers and beekeeping near and far and he is never too busy to answer any beekeeping questions.

Harold is well known around the Savannah, GA and Hilton Head, SC areas for honeybee removals as he has rescued and relocated hundreds (maybe thousands) of colonies of feral bees and continues to provide beekeeping services. He has removed swarms from the Port of Savannah, Georgia Power and many other places.

Harold is an honored lifetime member of Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association and was its first president. He is also an active member of Effingham County Beekeepers Association.

He is passionate about beekeeping and responsible for getting many people into beekeeping. He remains very active in the beekeeping community. Whatever aspect of beekeeping a person is interested in, he can help you get going in the right direc-

tion. I am proud to have such an awesome mentor, and I am surely not the only one! He continues to do honey bee rescues, mentoring, and sells honey and wax.

Harold Ward has been a beekeeper for over 40 years and is an important pioneer in the history of honey in Georgia!

Here are some of the many publications Harold Ward is mentioned in:

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/2017-06-22/dead-bees-tybee-raise-questions-about-mosquito-spraying>

http://www.thetruecitizen.com/news/2011-06-29/Church_News/Getting_hives.html?print=1

<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPower/videos/1072127946183462>

<https://ceba.wildapricot.org/about-ceba>

*Tell us about your History of Honey in Georgia.
gbanewsletters@gmail.com*



Honey Show Calendar



GBA is working on a list of honey shows all over the state to have on the website. This will help us all be aware of shows nearby we can enter. It'll also help those studying to be Welsh Honey Judges earn the necessary points. Please be sure your club is sending in their Wufoo form each month so we can have a complete list by this time next year. Also, contact us here: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

THE HISTORY OF HONEY IN GEORGIA

Antique Langstroth

– by Ted and Sharon Kuhn
Lake Country Beekeepers

This old Langstroth hive came from our barn in northwestern North Carolina. The barn is falling down and we climbed up into the second floor to look around one last time. The best we can tell from knowing the history of that particular barn is that the hive probably dates from between 1890 and 1910. The box is in relatively good condition (no termites). The hives holds 11 frames easily and 12 if I put them in tight. There are three complete hives but the other two are not in as good a shape. There are about 100 frames of different sizes. Some have propolis on them while others look like they were never used.



So, you keep bees . . .

You know it's coming. Folks find out you're a beekeeper and what do you get for presents... wacky honey bee stuff. It could be the hat with wings, the seat covers with bees on them, or even that honey bee tattoo. Whether you love it, hate it, or just laugh at it, send us pictures of those bee-related gifts. We won't even tell if it shows up as a donated raffle item at your next bee club meeting.
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

– by Kathleen Bourn



GBA needs You!

- To send in the name and contact information of your new club president!
- To send us the name of anyone in your club who falls seriously ill or has a death so we can send a card from GBA.

Please send this info to gabepresident@gmail.com

CLUB NEWS

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association

Two seventh grade students, under the tutelage of teacher Alice Kohler, contacted CEBA for help with a **Bartlett School Science Fair Project**. **Mary Lefleur** and **Milena Bringham** wanted to measure the impact of three common sprays on honey bees:



- Cutter Wasp & Hornet Spray
- Deep Woods Off (with 30% DEET)
- No Natz Repellent (blend of rosemary and lemongrass oils)

CEBA president **Greg Stewart** provided the bees. With experience as a Georgia licensed commercial pest control operator and a college degree in chemistry, he was also intrigued by their project and its possible outcomes.

Using a series of jars as the test environment, the two young women staged three exposure methods for each product:

1. direct exposure
2. contact by brush (partial exposure)
3. vapor exposure by placing a paper towel wet with the product inside the jar

They also made a control jar to confirm that honey bees "not" exposed to any product survived during their testing.

Their results concluded that **direct spray of any product will kill the bees**. Over time, partial exposure was also killing the bees. The vapor exposure within the time allotted was also taking a toll on the bees, but with varying speeds: DEET worked the fastest, the Cutter Bug Spray came in second, and No Natz was the slowest. There were a few bees that did survive the vapor test and were able to fly away.

The three-hour project was conducted, videotaped and photographed at the **Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens** on Highway Ga 17.

Coweta Beekeepers Assoc.

The end of the year meeting on **December 10th** offers a wonderful seasonal gathering of great food and fellowship.

We'll have quarterly prize drawings and a Christmas Gift "Grab and Theft" (fully sanctioned and approved by local law enforcement). Best meeting of the year!

Forsyth County Beekeepers

In November the Forsyth Beekeepers hosted our annual holiday dinner and officer elections. We were happy to see over 60 people make it to the event. Our 2019 officers are: President **Butch Shelton**, Vice President **Mike Dayton**, Treasurer **Teri Meyer**, Secretary **Kelley Campbell**, Webmaster **Joe Bannister**, and Librarian **Lilly Turpin**. We look forward to a productive and helpful year of networking and learning together. We hope to see familiar faces and meet those seeking to become beekeepers in the new year.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

There is expected to be a lot of moving and shaking for the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers in 2019. The Hart County Charter School System built a new **AgriScience Center** to provide students with a facility to help with their agriculture education. The center is offered to the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers for our 2019 Short Course on Feb. 23rd and for some upcoming meetings. The hope is to expand the clubs beekeeping outreach to Hart County school students and to the public with a community apiary at the Ag Center.

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers

At our November meeting we held club elections for the New Year. We were honored to have **Harold Lanier** speak about honey bee biology. Our club Christmas party will be held at the December meeting.

We learned that **Dr. Jamie Ellis** will speak at our club in April. Look for details soon.

Dr. Ellis is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. At the University of Florida, Dr. Ellis has responsibilities in extension, instruction and research related to honey bees. Regarding his extension work, Dr. Ellis created the UF, South Florida, and Caribbean Bee Colleges, and the UF Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Dr. Ellis supervises Ph.D. and masters students in addition to offering an online course in apiculture. Dr. Ellis and his team conduct research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination.

(continued on next page)



[The Club Meetings matrix will return in January]

CLUB NEWS – (CONT'D)

Lake Country Beekeepers Association



LCBA Members participated in the **Agricultural Day at Lewis Elementary School** in Hancock County on Wednesday, November 14th. Over 200 kindergarten through 5th grade students and their teachers, learned about the importance of bees, the role and tools of a beekeeper, and were fascinated with the exposure to bees (including the queen) peering through an observation hive. The Lake Country Beekeepers Association was inducted into the Agricultural Wall of Fame at the school in recognition of their fourth year as a community participant.



In November, we welcomed **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, Director of UGA Honey Bee Lab, to our monthly meeting in Sparta, Georgia. His engaging talk on "Multiple Mating in The Queen Yard - Liability or Asset?" offered humor and insights to the mating behavior of both queens and drones. Genetic diversity is an asset of the multiple mating charac-



teristic found in the bee world. Genetic selection is possible through artificial insemination, but can lead to unintended consequences. For example, the selective grooming characteristic in some workers is too excessive and all the brood are removed from the hive. In Dr. Delaplane's opinion, polyandry is easier than A.I. and provides diverse health benefits for the bee colony. We were honored and enjoyed his time with our membership.

We will NOT meet in December but will host our **Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 11th** for our club membership.

West Georgia Beekeepers

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association hosted our annual honey show in October with participants entering beekeeping related gadgets, photography, artwork, and of course honey.

On November 3rd the club hosted a beekeeping short course with numerous participants. We had several good instructors and a lot of informative question and answer sessions. The November 26th guest speaker was **Greg Payne**, Professor and Associate Dean at the College of Science and Mathematics at the University of West Georgia. He spoke about all the beekeeping projects at the college. December 3rd is our annual Christmas party. On January 28, 2019 **Bob Binnie** speaks about his commercial beekeeping business, Blue Ridge Honey Company.

We meet the fourth Monday of the month at the American Legion, 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, Georgia 30134. Come join us!

. . . THE CONFERENCE IS COMING . . . THE CONFERENCE IS COMING . . .

The **Spring Georgia Beekeepers Assoc. Conference** is coming to **Augusta**. Save the **February 15th & 16th** date to get together with your favorite beekeepers. **Friday Feb. 15th** is the meeting of the Board and a special dinner and talk. Saturday Feb. 16th brings a day of learning about bees, talking about bees and having a good time with the people who keep bees. The conference will be at the **University of Augusta, Summerville Campus**. More details to come.



Happy Holidays!

