



Spilling *The* Honey

JANUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2020 marks GBA's 100th anniversary as an organization. We are thriving, growing and improving in our efforts and abilities to help beekeepers all over the state.

Our celebration will kick off with our spring conference in Augusta, Georgia at Augusta University. Supporting our 100th year celebration are a number of sponsors. We are so grateful to these sponsors who provide financial help to our organization. Their support helps to allow us to give you the great meetings that we offer twice a year.

Thanks to the following sponsors of our 2020 Spring Conference:

- Mountain Sweet Honey**
- Pigeon Mountain Trading Company**
- Dadant**
- Mann Lake**
- Savannah Bee Company**
- Rossman Apiaries**
- Georgia Bee Removal**

Please let these sponsors know how we appreciate them by ordering from them ahead of the February 22, 2020 meeting!

You can sign up for the [February meeting here](#). And to the right, you can find the schedule of speakers and their topics.

Bee Well,



Linda Tillman
GBA President

Spring GBA Conference Speaker Schedule at a Glance as GBA Celebrates our 100th Anniversary

Time	Friday	Topic
7:00 PM	Bob Binnie	Adventures in commercial migratory beekeeping
Time	Saturday	Topic
8:45 - 9:30	Rachael Bonoan	How diet diversity affects foraging
9:45 - 10:30	Kirsten Traynor	Stronger Together: how beekeepers can advocate for pollinator health
11:00 - 11:45	Breakout A	
	Kathy Bourn	Beyond the Bee: Inject Energy into your Beekeepers
	Ted Dennard	Celebrating My Georgia Beekeeping Journey
	Harold Lanier	The Swarm!
	Wyatt Mangum	Studying Bees with Top Bar Hives & Frame Hives
	Steve Page	Treatment-Free Beekeeping, the benefits of raising queens, and letting colonies die.
	Tom Rearick	What Honey Bees Tell Us About Natural Intelligence
	Virginia Webb	Beyond Just Beeswax
LUNCH 11:45		
12:45 - 1:30	Wyatt Mangum	Beekeeping in the 1870s
1:30 - 2:15	Kirsten Traynor	Thinking Outside the Box for Varroa Control
3:15 - 4:30	Breakout B	Repeat of Breakout A with two exceptions - Mangum and Dennard do not repeat, Traynor and Lamey added
added:	Kirsten Traynor	Two Million Blossoms: Honey for Your Health
	Kristofer Lamey	Honey Judge Training: Expression in Context
repeat of A	Bourn, Lanier, Page, Rearick, Webb	



Bees on the Town

– by Liza Lucas

Beekeeping in urban areas is challenging. Putting beehives near busy businesses is formidable. Doing both is ambitious.

Bee Downtown thrives on installing and maintaining honey bee colonies in cities, on corporate campuses and in urban settings. You can spot their brightly painted hives all over Atlanta.

“These hives are like little ‘Where’s Waldo’ all over town,” Leigh-Kathryn Bonner, founder and CEO of Bee Downtown explained. “You’ll find them at Piedmont park. You’ll see them at the parking deck at Ponce.”

The Ponce City Market hives are part of a bee team initiative which already includes companies like Delta, AT&T, Cox Enterprises, Invesco, Georgia Power and more.

“They’re going to be pollinating over 18,000 acres within the surrounding communities of Ponce,” Bonner said. “These hives are in the heart of Atlanta; they are the newest part of the Atlanta skyline.”

In addition to hive projects in both Atlanta and Charlotte, Bee Downtown is busy with other local initiatives, including the Spring 2020 BDT Leadership institute.



(Above) The bees enjoy the Atlanta skyline from their Ponce City Market location in downtown. (Above right) Leigh-Kathryn Bonner, Founder and CEO of Bee Downtown. (Below right) Urban beekeeping in action.

She is referring to one of their latest projects at Ponce City Market. It’s the renovated Sears, Roebuck & Co. building that now houses shops, restaurants and offices.

“I wanted to help rebuild healthy honey bee populations. Studies show that honey bees do thrive in urban environments. So what we started doing is looking to corporations to join the bee team and be a part of the movement to bring sustainable agriculture back to cities and also to help one of the world’s most precious pollinators” Bonner said.

The institute will focus on self-awareness, storytelling, and building and leading high performing teams. The group will also host a showcase event for HR executives in Atlanta January 23rd, 2020, where human resource leaders can come out and experience how we use the lessons of the hive to teach critical leadership skills.

Can’t wait for more bee news? Check out Bee Downtown’s new podcast The Bees-ness of Leadership.

Float like a Bee

– by Dan Long

Honey Holidays! Last fall, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association entered a float in the Downtown Athens Parade of Lights. It's a pretty big commitment in cost and hours of labor, but we wanted to reach out to the local community. We wanted them to be aware there's a resource in town for those interested

in beekeeping, honey and information on protecting pollinators. It measures 3 feet by 3 1/2 feet and just a little over 5 feet tall! We secured it carefully to the deck of the trailer using some of the skirting support and wood screws since it would be subject to lots of wind while driving down the road. Once mounted, we stapled 600 icicle lights to it!



in beekeeping, honey and information on protecting pollinators.

A rarely used trailer was chosen so there was plenty of time to build. Over the course of many Sunday afternoons before the December fifth parade date, we turned a plain flatbed trailer into a beautiful meadow of trees and shrubs. We bolted and wired three large trees to the trailer. We strung those trees with hundreds of Christmas lights. Next we skirted the entire perimeter in thin plywood, painted a base coat of green, and then painted shrubs over that.

The theme for the parade was Home for the Holidays, so we decided would build a huge Langstroth hive. It

Even my dad asked if he could help somehow, but he lives in Florida! I suggested he might be able to find a throne because we wanted a human "Queen Bee" but wasn't expecting it to be easy. Within a week he had found a beautiful chair. It needed plenty of work but he got right to it. He did an amazing job and it was a perfect fit for the float!

In addition to our Queen Bee, Heidi Simmonds, 50 little bees were attached at various places on the float to look like they were helping to hang the lights or just buzzing around. We used a disco ball motor mounted

(continued on next page)

Float like a Bee

– (cont'd)

over the throne and wires, allowing a handful of bees to fly around the queen's crown.

Adding something to the tow vehicle is really nice. One of our team members built an enormous honey pot in his spare time and added another motorized set of flying bees on it. The final touch was to bolt down an LED spotlight to shine on it.

Our Queen was well-dressed with a cape, a set of wings and a crown complete with antennae. A team member used his lathe to create a royal scepter with a giant honey dipper on top for her! Most of us were dressed as beekeepers, carrying honey buckets with Bit O' Honey candy for the kids. We also had two full sized inflatable and lightweight honey bee costumes for walkers.

Our final float included two spotlights, two motors and over 3000 Christmas lights! The day of the parade a few key team members loaded up the stuff, hitched up the float, and drove very slowly into town. We took our place among the dozens of floats, marching bands and antique cars. Everyone got into beekeeping gear or their costume and we were all set!

The one-mile parade route through downtown Athens



was filled with lights. There were thousands of people and the weather was just about perfect. We handed out candy and exchanged greetings of Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Save The Bees and Long Live The Queen with the crowd. There were lots of smiles and waves from everyone and our bees did lots of buzzing around! Many people asked us beekeeping questions and how they could join the club. Everyone had a great time building the float and participating in the parade!

Editor's note: Dan put together a great "making of" video [you can see here](#).

LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

Carl Webb

If you've ever heard of Russian honey bees in the United States, chances are you have heard the name Carl Webb, a humble, sometimes gruff but soft-in-the-middle beekeeper, who lives in the picturesque North Georgia mountains with his beekeeper wife, Virginia. Webb is a charter member of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association. He purchased one of the first available Russian breeder queens to begin to transition his apiary to the Russian honey bee.



— by Katie Goodman in collaboration with Bob Ketch

He's fluent in German and likes to teach the language to those he mentors. Carl Webb is a man who loves nature; enjoys spending quality time with his bees and gets to know his hives intimately.

Over the years he has donated his time, money and colonies to honey bee research. With this; he has helped advance the science and knowledge leading to new discoveries critical in maintaining the insect's viability. Webb is quoted as saying: "Bees know what they're doing, we just get in their way and mess them up!"

Webb has been a lifetime advocate for bees and an inspirational mentor for beekeepers around the world. Students of Webb often talk about his graciousness, expertise, the passion he has for bees and the impact he has had on them. For years Carl has taken the time with his students and colleagues: enjoying and sharing his life long education and experiences with the honey bee.



Carl Webb with his beloved Russian honey bees. Checking on a graft

In the "AM" (after mites); Webb had the foresight to recognize the important traits the Russian honey bees possessed with their naturally occurring varroa sensitive hygienic behavior. He liked what he saw and he never looked back.

Webb is a well-traveled WW2 Army veteran, rubber tree plantation manager and 33 year administrator for the US Forest Service. He took up beekeeping in 1959 as a hobby and then as a final career after retiring in Habersham County, Georgia where he was born. For the past 20 years he and his wife Virginia have sold honey from their quaint roadside stand in front of their home. They also promote and sell their renowned Gold Medal Best Honey in the World online at MtnHoney.com

Some describe Webb as highly opinionated, informative but frank, treasure trove of facts and history, with no candy coating added. At 93, he drives his trusty Dodge pickup from yard to yard, checking on his colonies. He's as much a horticulturist as he is a beekeeper and knows trees by their Latin names.



A reflection of the master. Carl Webb fills barrels with MtnHoney's famous sourwood honey.

The world of beekeeping is a better place because of Carl Webb. The dedication and unwavering standards he applies to his beekeeping practices are unmatched. Webb is a pioneer, an inspirational trailblazer to many; but most of all, he is a dear friend to so many —both humans and insects alike.

And that is what makes him a legendary Georgia beekeeper.



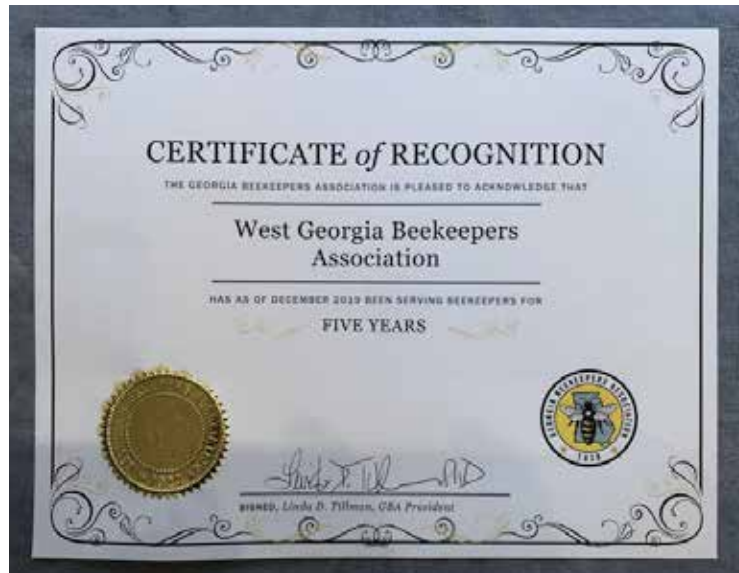
Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

HOW OLD IS YOUR BEE CLUB?

How old is your bee club?

If you have a significant birthday this year, be sure to let the president of GBA know. We love it that GBA is turning 100 in 2020. In 2019, Coweta had a birthday and West Georgia had a birthday. Eastern Piedmont will have its 25th anniversary in 2020.

We are glad either to send or to visit your club to present a certificate to you from GBA acknowledging your significant anniversary. It's fun and you will have a memento of your bee club's longevity!



Bee Club Changes?

– *Spilling the Honey Editors*

It's that time of year again. Yes it's winter, yes it's the holidays, but it's also the time of year when most beekeeping clubs hold elections for new officers. If your club has new officers, please let them know how to get the club's information to GBA and the newsletter.

If you have a new president: Please send an email to gabepresident@gmail.com and copy webmaster@gabekeeping.com. We need the new presidents name and contact information. On the GBA local club page, [there's a link to the form](#) that should be filled out to convey this information to us effectively. We offer club presidents a free year of GBA membership for each year they serve. This has been difficult to accomplish because each club operates on a different calendar. Going forward we will award a free annual membership to whoever is president at the end of January. If you are not sure that your club's info is up to date, fill out the form today.

If you have someone new sending in the monthly club calendar information: GBA sends out a form called a Wufoo Form each month to any person from each club who will reliably send out meeting information. Many times this is either the president or the secretary. This form submits the club name, meeting location, meeting schedule, meeting date, speaker and topic, club

email and we have now added a column for the date of your club's bee school if you have one. Kelley Campbell manually inputs the information [and here is an example of the spreadsheet](#) that is used.

To have your club's designated person receive the Wufoo form, please have them [fill out this form](#)

If you have a new location for your meeting: Any new location or time can be added to the Wufoo form and put into the meeting calendar.

If you have new members who would like to be GBA members: They can go to the [GBA website](#) to join or go [directly to this page](#).

If your club's information is wrong or missing on the GBA website: Please [fill out this form](#) and let us know. Harvest Hoffman is the GBA webmaster.

If you have a new club and would like to join GBA: [Here are the requirements](#).

Anyone can send in club news items to *Spilling the Honey* by submitting write ups and/or pictures to gbanewsletters@gmail.com. We encourage you to share all the great things your beekeepers are doing no matter how big or small.



Todd Folger shared this beautiful sunset shot with us. It was taken in late November at his North Georgia Bee Farm in Hall County.

Beekeeping Behind Bars

*by Lee Arrendale's Prison Program
Volunteers: Julia Mahood, Virginia Webb
and David Hollomon*

Lee Arrendale State Prison made history this year when two incarcerated beekeepers passed the Master Beekeeper test, the first to do so in any US prison! In addition to passing a very difficult written exam, attaining the level of Master Beekeeper requires ten public service credits (aside from the five already completed for Journeyman) along with five subspecialty credits. Completing these tasks in prison took a lot of initiative and hard work.

The program at Lee Arrendale started in 2016. Since then 28 ladies have passed the Certified test and six have reached the rank of Journeyman. Learning the art and craft of beekeeping has greatly enriched the lives of these women, and the beekeeping program has been an educational force on the prison compound for staff as well as the whole incarcerated population.

If you're interested in speaking to a prison beekeeping class at one of the seven prison programs in the state, or being a regular volunteer, contact Julia Mahood at juliamahood@gmail.com

Special Class for Honey Judges

We will be offering at every meeting a special breakout for the honey judges' continuing education. They can learn how to judge categories that are not really covered by their Welsh honey training. The goal of offering this training is to increase the expertise of our honey judges to add to their ability to judge categories outside of honey and wax.

The classes are scheduled to occur after the honey judging has ended at the conference. This year at the spring conference, the artisan show awards will be announced at 2:15. Then at Breakout B, we are pleased to offer a class in how to judge art and photography.

The class will be taught by Kristofer Lamey, whose art is exhibited in collections in Paris, New York and Los Angeles. Kristofer is himself in training to be a honey judge. This makes his investment in how judges are trained to judge art even more important.

Here are the questions his class will address:

- What are the similarities between art, design and photography? Moreover, what makes them different?
- As a judge, from what perspective should you be examining art and photography? Why does it matter?
- Should there be or not be a standard of critiquing in photography in the Welsh program?
- Are we encouraging and enriching bee culture?

While this class is designed for judges, it is open to anyone. For example, if you often enter photography or art or if you are someone who would like to, this might be an interesting class for you to attend at the conference in Augusta.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

December 3, 2019, CVBA decorated a Christmas tree for the Uptown Tree Trail in Columbus. Last year, the club won for best tree.

December 7, 2019, the CVBA participated in the Bi-City Christmas Parade. We were amazed by the responses we had from the crowd as our float passed. The club got lots of exposure while the participants had fun.

December 9, 2019, was the annual Christmas party held at the UGA Extension Service. There was lots of wonderful food and good fellowship.

December 14, 2019, the CVBA also participated in the Harris County Redneck Christmas Parade. Again fun was had by all and the club received a lot of recognition.

January 13, 2020 will be our next meeting. We will learn about using Nematodes to control hive beetles. The meeting will be at Oxbow Meadows at 6 pm.



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, December 17th for our annual Christmas party, silent auction fundraiser and announcement of the Beekeeper of the Year. Three complete backyard beekeeper kits were donated by Tractor Supply, Rossman Apiaries, and Karsten-Denson Hardware. There were many delicious treats enjoyed by those in attendance. Our next meeting is January 21st, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the UGA extension meeting room, located in the old county courthouse.

(l to r) Jonathan Hayes, president, Emily Heath, who was voted Beekeeper of the Year, and Kathy Shelton, vice-president.



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Lake Country Beekeepers

We are hosting our 8th Annual Beekeeping Short Course on Saturday, January 25th. Come learn about the world of beekeeping from local beekeeping experts, Keith Fielder (UGA Extension Agent) and Rose Anne Fielder (2015 Georgia Beekeeper of The Year). In addition, we will have Bob Binnie, owner of Blue Ridge Honey Company and a commercial beekeeper, and Rick Coor, Master Beekeeper and a Micro-queen breeder. The beekeeping topics will include: honey bee biology, honey bee nutrition, beekeeping equipment, colony health and behavior, host-parasite relationships in the hive, queen rearing methods, products from the hive, and hive inspection. Those new to beekeeping as well as experienced beekeepers are invited. Registration includes: 2020 club membership, beekeeping book, magazines and handouts, and lunch. Register and more details on-line at www.LCBA2020.eventbrite.com or contact, Mary Lacksen at 478.456.1049 or lakecountrybees@gmail.com.

Registration:
\$50.00 per person before
January 20th, \$70.00 after
that date.

When:
Saturday, January 25th,
9:00am - 5:00pm (lunch
included)

Location:
Greensboro First United
Methodist Church,
North Campus
202 West Broad Street,
Greensboro, GA 30642



8TH ANNUAL BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE

beekeeping course

25 JANUARY 2020 • 9 AM TO 5 PM • GREENSBORO, GA
REGISTER ONLINE WWW.LCBA2020.EVENTBRITE.COM

West Georgia Beekeepers

Our monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 27th. The guest speaker is Jerry Miller and his topic is "Preparing for Spring." There will be a question and answer session following the program. Keith Golden is our February 24th speaker and his topic is "Raising Queens." We meet every fourth Monday of the month at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134. The mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

Saturday, March 7th is the date for the annual beekeeping short course put on by the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc. The day long course highlights well-known Georgia speakers, workshops, lunch with a beekeeper and hands-on training. It's a great opportunity to get hooked on our favorite insect. The cost is \$50/person or \$25 for those under 18yo. It takes place at the Hart County B.O.E AgriScience Center (1951 Bowman Hwy. Hartwell 30643).

For more information or to register email lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc.
March 7th, 2020

Beekeeping Short Course
Learn about the amazing HONEY BEE and how to get started keeping YOUR OWN HONEY BEES

Learn
Bee Biology Nutrition
Honey Harvesting
Beekeeping Equipment
How to Install Bees
Smoker Lighting & More

Course Includes
LHBA 2020 Membership
Door Prizes/Gift Bag
Future Hive Inspections
Lunch/Snacks

\$50/person \$25/under 18

Register on PayPal or email
lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com

706-476-7089 404-219-7200

Sat. March 7th, 2020 — 8:30a-4:30p
Hart Co. B.O.E. AgriScience Center
1951 Bowman Hwy. Hartwell, Ga. 30643
lakehartwellbeeclub.org

Macon Beekeepers Association

The Macon Beekeepers Association has changed their time and meeting place. Our meeting is the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at the Museum of Arts & Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Rd, Macon, GA 31210. However, due to the first Thursday being January 2nd, 2020, we have changed our upcoming meeting to January 9th instead. Our speaker will be Beau Coursan. His topic is It's January, what now?

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Oglethorpe County Bee Club

Linda Tillman, GBA president and Master Beekeeper, presented a delightful talk, "Fun and Facts About Wax" at the Oglethorpe County Bee Club December meeting. She started with basic properties of wax and moved us through the steps in cleaning wax, making candles, and preparing competitive wax blocks. Then she shared her recipes for lotions and lures, which were captured by many cell phone cameras. A new Board of Directors was voted in for the 2020 year.

Dan Long, Master Beekeeper, presented a lively talk on Beelining at the Oglethorpe County Bee Club's November meeting. He showed several styles of beelining boxes including how to build them and went over the steps of following bees to a bee tree. With the detailed instructions from Dan, we'll all be looking forward to trying this out come spring! Bruce Morgan brought a work of art to the meeting, one of his first "Long" hives.



Linda Tillman, (upper left), Dan Long, (upper right), and Bruce Morgan (left).

Tara Beekeepers

January 19th Bee-yard

Who: Tara Members (you may join our club at the Bee Yard)

What: Hands-on opportunity for Beekeeping Essentials - (1pm - 3pm)

Where: Decatur, GA – Registration required by Jan 15th - Register by emailing tarabeekeepers@gmail.com

Topic: Winter-time Care and Inventory Equipment

January 20 Meeting

Beekeepers' Round-Robin - Questions & Answers with New & Experienced Beekeepers

We'll organize into small groups and rotate among tables staffed with new & experienced Beekeepers for in-depth discussions regarding your beekeeping questions.

Beekeepers Corner: Favorite Hand Tools

752 Main Street, Forest Park, GA 30297 in the Forest Park Kiwanis' Building.

Tri-County Beekeepers

We hosted our annual Christmas party and covered dish dinner. We had 45 members and family members who attended to share the Christmas spirit and partake in some amazing food. We also had our honey show with 23 entries in nine classes. There was good competition in several classes but it goes to show that the members of our club can really cook. Sid Langston won Best in Show for his peanut brittle.

And who knew that Santa (our very own member Mark Kersh) was a beekeeper too? Santa stopped by to spend some time with everyone, talk with the kids, have pictures made with everyone there and even read "Twas the Night Before Christmas to everyone.



Mike Conner, Sid Langston, Mark Kersh and Gail Dean, (upper left). Mark Kersh (Santa) and Bobby Chaisson, (upper right). Tri-County members and their families enjoy dinner and the honey show (left).

Club Meetings

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	Bee* School
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	Monday, January 6		Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, January 21		marcushvac2@gmail.com	
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, January 9		pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	February 8, 20120
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 23		Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 21		arron_rob@me.com	
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 14	Steve Esau; Hobbist to Sideliner	tawnalow@me.com	March 21, 2020
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 13		marymom51@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm	Thursday, January 9		tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm	Wednesday, January 15		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, January 13	Topic: Using Nematodes to control Small Hive Beetles	Jim Ellis	
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 14		beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, January 16		spposey@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm	Monday, February 3		clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, January 13		CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 13		cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flatshoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 28		eastmetrobees@gmail.com	
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 6:45pm	Monday, January 6		danielreidlong@gmail.com	
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 9		EffinghamBees@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 23		baileysbees@gmail.com	
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 21		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 14		henrybeebug123@gmail.com	February 23, 2020
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 16		lakecountrybees@gmail.com	January 25, 2020

*Please note this month we placed **Bee School dates** in the County column. Many thanks to Kelley Campbell for compiling the bee school information. Please contact the Clubs directly to register.

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Club Meetings

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Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	**January 11 at 10:00 am** (special date/ time/location)	No regular club meeting in Jan. We will tour Blue Ridge Honey Company in Lakemont, Ga. on January 11 at 10:00am	lakehartwellbeekeep- ersassoc@gmail.com	March 7, 2020
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm	Tuesday, January 28		info@littliverbee- keepers.com	
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, **January 9	*New meeting time and place.* Beau Coursan, It's January, what now?	ganofs@cox.net	
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 21		julia@mahoodstudio. com	January 25, 2020
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm	Tuesday, January 7		abletinker@wind- stream.net	
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 9		officers@negabee- keeping.com	
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 13		kaizen.thornberry@ gmail.com	
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm	Thursday, January 30		secretary@oabees. com	
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 20	Bob Binnie, Removing Old Comb from the Hive and Properties of Honey.	joecontibeas@aol. com	
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 13		victor@makinhoney. com	
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes. k12.ga.us	
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm	Thursday, January 9		polkcountybeekeep- ers@gmail.com	
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, January 16		potatocreekbeekeep- ers@gmail.com	January 18, 2020
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, January 9		info@sowegabee- keepers.org	
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, January 20	Round Table discussion, Q&A, Beekeepers' Corner	maryc7@aol.com	
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 7		threecountybees@ gmail.com	
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 13		info@tricitybee- keepers.net	
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, January 20		tristatebeekeepers1@ gmail.com	
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, January 20		neatermyer@aol.com	
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm	Monday, January 13		twinriversbeekeep- ers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, January 21		waltonbees@yahoo. com	
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, January 27	Jerry Miller, Preparing for Spring	2nparker@bellsouth. net	

*Please note this month we placed **Bee School dates** in the County column. Many thanks to Kelley Campbell for compiling the bee school information. Please contact the Clubs directly to register.



CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF BEEKEEPING

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Bob Binnie

Bob Binnie is a past president of GBA and owns and operates Blue Ridge Honey Co. in Lakemont, Georgia. Bob began his commercial beekeeping career in Oregon in 1981 and has been heavily involved in pollination and honey production as a commercial migratory beekeeper for nearly forty years.



Rachael Bonoan

Rachael has been keeping bees for seven years and received her Ph.D. studying honey bee nutrition and behavior. Outside of research, Rachael teaches a class on insect pollinators at Tufts University, has given a TEDx talk on engaging children in science, and is past-president of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association.



Kirsten Traynor, PhD

Kirsten Traynor started *Two Million Blossoms: protecting our pollinators*, a new quarterly magazine. She's currently a research associate at Arizona State University where she investigates how honey bees communicate and the impacts of pesticide, and she works in a robotics lab in Berlin, Germany. Kirsten is the author of *Simple, Smart Beekeeping*.



Wyatt Mangum, PhD

Dr. Mangum has kept bees since the age of ten. During high school, he had 125 colonies. After obtaining his PhD in genetics, he worked with bees in South America, Asia, and Africa. Dr. Mangum maintains a large collection of old beekeeping equipment, dating back to the early 1800s.

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{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 21

3:00-4:00 PM Artisan Show entries accepted, UH 246, 247

5:00-6:15 PM Board Meeting, JSAC second floor

6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, JSAC Ballroom

7:00 PM Dinner & lecture by Bob Binnie:
Adventures in commercial migratory beekeeping

Saturday, February 22

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

8:00-10:00 AM Artisan Show entries accepted, UH 246, 247

8:30 AM Opening remarks: Linda Tillman, GBA President

8:45 AM Rachel Bonoan:
How diet diversity affects foraging

9:30 AM GBA website Ad Auction

9:45 AM Kirsten Traynor:
How Beekeepers Can Advocate for Public Health

10:30 AM BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

11:00 AM Morning Breakout Sessions

11:45 AM LUNCH

12:45 PM Wyatt Mangum:
Beekeeping in the 1870s and An Early Georgia Beekeeping Publication

1:30 PM Kirsten Traynor:
Thinking outside the box for Varroa control

2:15 PM Artisan Show awards announced

2:45 PM CUPCAKE BREAK • *View Artisan Show*

3:15 PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions

4:25 PM Rachael Bonoan:
Why do honey bees like dirty water?

5:05 PM Raffle Drawings, pick up show entries



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

Kathleen Bourn

Kathleen enjoys building a variety of hives and equipment for her 10-20 colonies in Hart County Ga. She builds her own Langstroths, top bars, Warres, OH, long Langs, and Layens hives. Kathleen is past-president and treasurer of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, GBA newsletter co-editor and a member of MABA.



Ted Dennard

Ted, founder of Savannah Bee Company, grew up on St. Simons Island. He was introduced to bees in 1979 when Roy Hightower placed hives on his family's land. He taught beekeeping in the Peace Corps in Jamaica and began The BeeCause Project in 2014.



Kristofer Lamey

Kristofer's work straddles a fine line that resides between art and design. Many, lost within the engineering of his creations, like to push his work out of the category of art and into the realm of design. His art is in collections in Paris, New York and Los Angeles.



Harold Lanier

Harold has been keeping bees for 10+ years. He manages from 50-150 colonies and owns Lanier Bee Barn in Commerce, GA. where he sells nucs, packages, honey, and beekeeping supplies. Harold also teaches his hands-on, all-day Beekeeping Boot Camp six to eight times each year. Harold is a UGA Journeyman Beekeeper.



Steven Page

Steven has over a decade of treatment-free beekeeping experience and manages 50 to 75 colonies in Coweta County, Georgia. After years of costly purchases of colonies and queens, resulting in poor performance, Steven developed Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping in 2014, a simple, sustainable, and inexpensive beekeeping method for small beekeepers.



Tom Rearick

Some men's midlife crises end in sports cars or mistresses. Tom's ended in honey bees and he could not have found a more intellectually challenging pursuit. He is a UGA Master Beekeeper and a member of the GBA and Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association.



Virginia Webb

Virginia is a third generation beekeeper. Along with her husband Carl Webb, they operate MtnHoney, a commercial beekeeping operation in Habersham County, Georgia. She has been teaching how to make candles and other beeswax crafts for more than 20 years.

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each breakout session is held in the morning, 11:00-11:45, and repeats in the afternoon, 3:15-4:00, *except where indicated.*

Kathleen Bourn: Beyond The Bee: Keeping Club Members Connected • UH 220
Beekeeping clubs offer the opportunity to socialize and learn from others, but keeping members interested and educated is a challenge. Kathleen shares ideas for making the bee club experience as social and productive as a honey bee colony.

Harold Lanier: The Swarm! • UH 243
What is a swarm? Why do bees swarm? How do they make up their minds? Where do they go? What kind of cavity are they looking for? We will answer these and other questions when we discuss one of the honey bees' most basic instincts. Based, in part, on Dr. Tom Seeley's book, *Honey Bee Democracy*.

Steven Page: Treatment-Free Beekeeping, the benefits of raising queens, and letting colonies die • UH 248
Why treatments to control mites will not work in the long term, but the industry wants you to treat for mites. The potential dangers in purchased queens and bees. Letting inferior colonies die to develop survivor stock. Hobby beekeepers with more than five colonies are essential for the future of beekeeping.

Tom Rearick: What Honey Bees Tell Us About Natural Intelligence • UH 221
Our debt to the honey bee is long and deep. For nine millennia, bees have provided sweet honey, wax candles, medicines, and pollination. But her greatest gift may be finally solving the deepest mystery of all time: how intelligence works. Learn how the honey bee informs us about the workings of the human brain.

Virginia Webb: Beyond Just Beeswax • UH 224
Learn how to take raw beeswax and do a simple rendering of the wax for the start of making beeswax candles, ornaments and other items. This is a hands-on workshop that will give even the first-time beekeeper confidence to pour beautiful candles and other items for show or sale.

MORNING ONLY

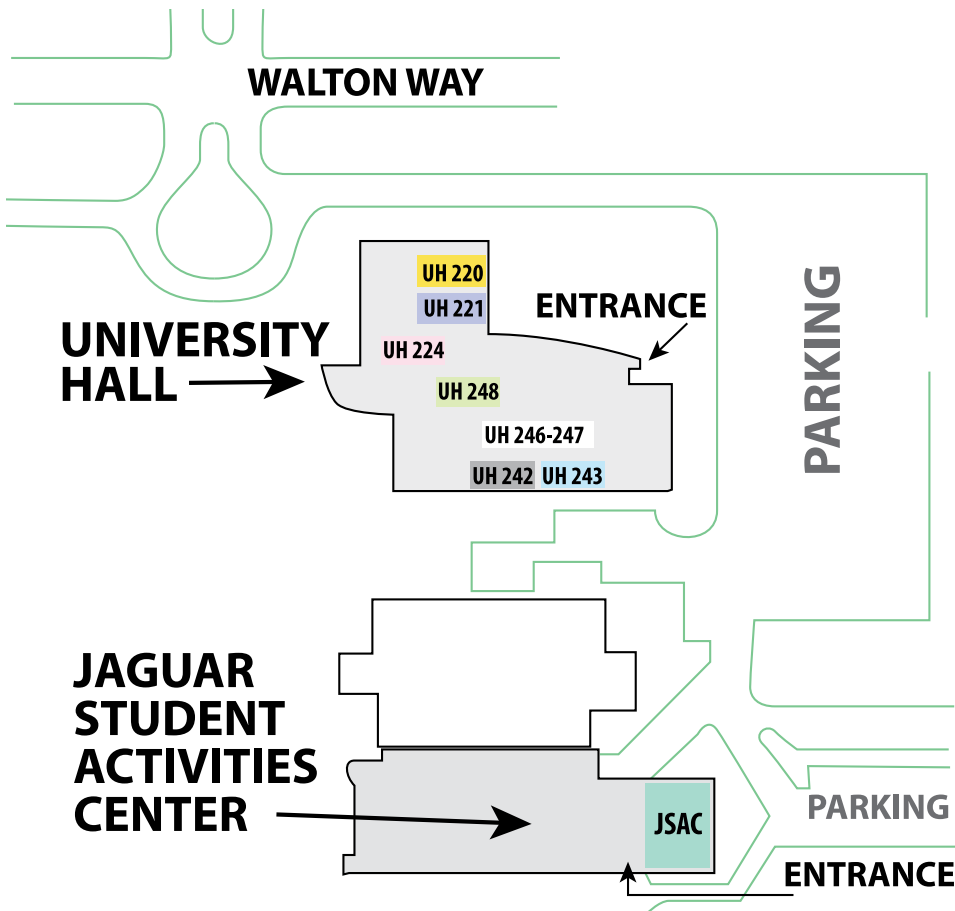
Wyatt Mangum: Studying Bees with Top-Bar Hives and Frame Hives • JSAC
From keeping 200 top-bar hives, we examine this hive design making beekeeping pleasurable while keeping it practical for backyard beekeepers. Keeping bees in different hive designs, frames and top bars, produce different but similar bee cultures. The two bee cultures can provide solutions to the other one's problems, helping both bee cultures to thrive.

Ted Dennard: Celebrating My Georgia Beekeeping Journey • UH 242
This talk will be a personal story of Ted's life with bees over the last 40 years with a particular focus on why Georgia is one of the greatest places to bee keep. From the tupelo swamps to the sourwood mountains, Ted will share how bees and Georgia shaped his life and work.

AFTERNOON ONLY

Kirsten Traynor: Two Million Blossoms: Honey for your Health • JSAC
Long before the advent of antibiotics, our ancestors used honey to treat a myriad of health issues. Superbugs continue to evolve resistance to modern antibiotics, making normal wounds difficult to heal. In search for effective alternatives, doctors are rediscovering the benefits of honey.

Kristofer Lamey: Expression in context • UH242
This talk is expressly designed for continuing education for honey judges, but anyone can attend.
What are the similarities between art, design and photography? Moreover, what makes them different? As a judge, from what perspective should you be examining art and photography? Why does it matter?



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HALL

First floor: Vendors
Second floor: Artisan Show exhibits in rooms 246, 247
Show prep in room 241
Breakouts in rooms 220, 221, 224, 248, 242, 243

JAGUAR STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

Ballroom: All main sessions and two breakouts

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}



Spilling *The* Honey

FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Birthday, GBA! We are celebrating our 100th year. That's quite a long time to be a functioning state organization. We are the success that we are because of you, our members. Thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of GBA and making our organization what it is today.

We have much to be proud of in Georgia. Our state commercial beekeepers provide bees to the rest of the nation. We've also contributed a lot to beekeeping just in my time as a beekeeper. Our own Cindy Bee, who will return to Georgia for our fall meeting, is well-known throughout the country. Jennifer Berry and Keith Delaplane are internationally well-known beekeepers from Georgia.

The GBA has the highest membership rolls ever. Our membership hovers around a thousand members and has been at that level for the last two years or so. We have many very active clubs around the state educating beekeepers through sharing information and holding meetings and short courses.

And we are about to have another great spring meeting in Augusta, GA at the Augusta University. You can [see the program](#) for the meeting here. In addition to the nationally known speakers who will be here (Kirsten Traynor, Rachael Bonoan and Wyatt Mangum), our own Bob Binnie will be the speaker at our opening dinner. We have workshops presented by outstanding Georgia beekeepers including Kathy Bourn, Ted Dennard, Harold Lanier, Steve Page, Tom Rearick and Virginia Webb. We'll have a special workshop for honey judges by Kristofer Lamey.

And of course there is the artisan honey show which is a place for you to show off your products other than honey, such as needlework, baking, art and photography. Entries for the honey show will be accepted late Friday afternoon as well as Saturday morning to help with the long lines to enter that we have experienced in recent shows. If you don't want to wait, turn your entry in on Friday between 3:00 and 4:00 before the board meeting.

We will have for sale t-shirts, caps and car magnets that celebrate the 100th anniversary of GBA, so bring your credit card.

Mostly let's just have a great time celebrating GBA's birthday - it's a big one! [To register, click here.](#)

Bee Well,

Linda T



SAVE THE HONEY BEE LICENSE PLATE

Update

– by Gail Dean
GBA Legislative
Committee Co-chair

987 This is the answer to the most asked question I receive while out and about. How many ‘Save the Honey Bee’ license plates have been sold? That is since we started selling them in June. According to a DOR representative, our plate has sold faster than any non-sports affiliated tag in the history of specialty plates in Georgia.

13 This is the answer to the second most asked question.

How many more plates do we have to sell to pay GBA back for the \$25,000 deposited with the State to manufacture the plates? We are really close to the 1,000 plate goal! Did you know that you don’t have to wait until your birthday renewal month to purchase the plate? You can do it anytime during the year. And it makes a great gift!

75% All the social media buzz about the plate has helped to get the word out across Georgia to beekeepers and the general public. **Over 75% of the plates sold have been to non-GBA members.** So keep posting those pictures of your plates!

In case you missed it, Jennifer Berry wrote a great article featuring our plate, which was published in the November issue of *Bee Culture Magazine*! It included 40 pictures of plates from around the country. The ‘Save the Honey Bee’ (designed by our own Master Beekeeper and Artist Julia Mahood)

was by far the best looking design. Linda Tillman was interviewed by Georgia Public Broadcasting last week and it was broadcast on public radio throughout the state. And an article about the plate appeared in the most recent issue of the *Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin*.

As promised by our GBA leadership, the “License Plate Proceeds Committee” has been formed to bring together ideas for how the funds raised by the



(Above) Gail proudly promotes both GBA and her local club (MABA), alongside her Save the Honey Bee license plate.

plates will be spent. The legislation enabling the plate stated numerous requirements, including “increasing public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and and supporting the training and education of new and experienced beekeepers.” Members of the Committee include Katie Goodman, Bob Binnie, Sophia Price, Paul Berry, Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman.

It would be wonderful if at least 13 more plates could be purchased by the February 21st GBA Spring Conference date. [Click here to purchase yours](#) today if you haven’t yet done so, continue to talk it up and post photos of your new plate!

BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

– by Virginia Webb

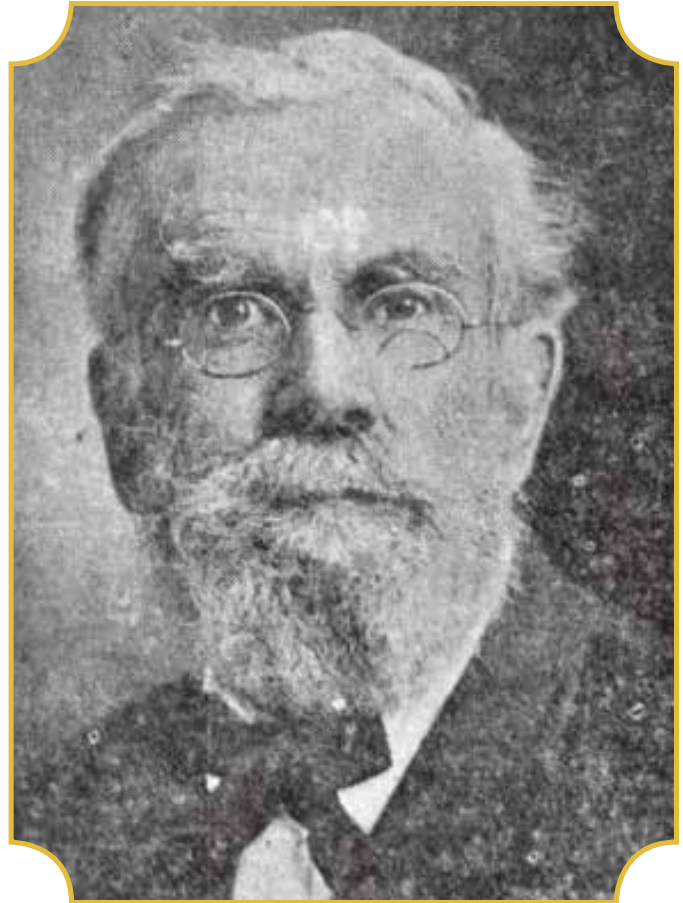
The first president of the GBA, J.J. Wilder did not become a successful beekeeper overnight. He, like myself and many other beekeepers had a mentor to help guide him and give advice on his beekeeping operation. For J.J. Wilder that mentor was T.W. Livingston.

Mr. Livingston's portrait resembles Colonel Sanders and he was considered the Langstroth of the South. There are many of his inventions still used today, most notable of which is the reversible extractor.

The bee which Livingston raised was the Banat honey bee. Originally from Hungary, the bee resembled the Carnolians. This is a dark bee that is gentle and builds up quickly in the spring.

After Mr. Livingston heard so many stories about "gallberry honey," he moved to a small town just south of Americus, GA and produced 23 successful years of a Gallberry honey crop with no failure.

In 1924, at the Georgia Beekeepers Association meeting in Savannah, E. R. Root described Livingston as one of the "greatest beekeepers of later days." After serving as one of our Vice-Presidents of the newly formed GBA, Mr. Livingston was unanimously elected as the first (and from what I can find, the only) HONORARY PRESIDENT of the Georgia Beekeepers Association in 1924.



T.W. Livingston, the first and possibly only Honorary President of GBA.

One more special event the GBA founded in 1921 is the first GBA Georgia Honey Week. The announcement was signed by Governor Hardwick for October 22-27, 1921. Display cards announcing Honey Week were distributed to retail stores in the state noting the great value of honey.



Thanks to the following sponsors of our 2020 Spring Conference:

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Please let these sponsors know how we appreciate them by ordering from them ahead of the February 22, 2020 meeting! You'll save shipping fees and they will feel appreciated.

Why COMB ROTATION is IMPORTANT

– by Bob Binnie
Blue Ridge Honey Company

{Portions of this article appeared in the November 2019 *Bee Culture* magazine}

Research has shown that old comb, especially old brood comb, contains significant levels of contaminants including pesticides, heavy metals, fungi, bacteria, and viruses. Any of these can be detrimental to a colony's wellbeing and large amounts will produce a barrage of problems including European foulbrood symptoms, premature queen failure, excessive and repeated colony losses and more.

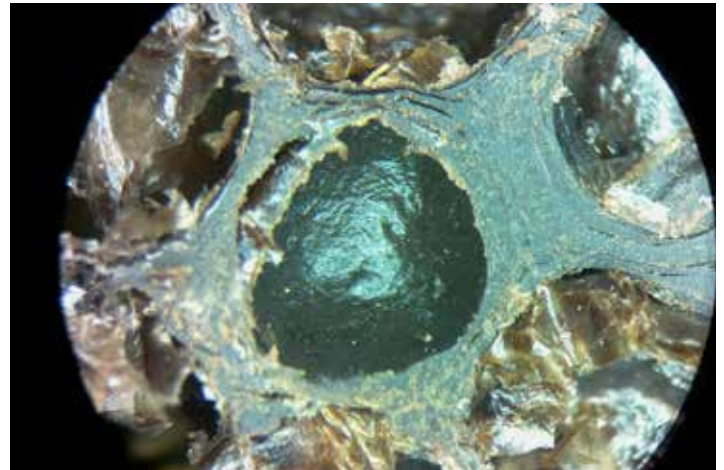
Additionally, the cell diameter in old, heavy, black, brood comb can shrink from an accumulation of these materials along with fecal matter and cocoon silk left behind by each emerging bee. In a three-year field study at the University of Georgia, Jennifer Berry compared new comb to old, dark, heavy comb for brood rearing.¹ It was shown that, “On average, colonies with new comb produced a greater

An often overlooked problem with old comb is the synergistic interactions that can occur between compounds previously absorbed and substances currently coming in. Because of the myriad of substances bees are exposed to today, the number of synergistic interactions that can be generated is astronomical, and can be practically impossible to know.



Bob Binnie

A few years ago, a second generation commercial beekeeper I know, who inherited much of his outfit from his father,



(Left) Very old comb, age unknown. (Right) A cross-section of old comb showing layers of old cocoons.

area of brood, a greater area of sealed brood, and higher weight of individual young bees.” Also, “Bees reared in old comb may weigh up to 19% less than bees reared in new comb” (Berry, 2001). The message here is clear:

“Colonies full of old, dark, heavy comb will have smaller bees and fewer of them.”

On a brighter note, honey consumers can take comfort in the fact that many of the toxins collected in nectar migrate to the comb because they are more attracted to beeswax than honey. This is due to the lipophilic properties of most toxins which means they tend to combine with or dissolve in lipids or fats, which is basically what beeswax is, rather than water (or honey). This is also why the comb in a beehive is often called “the liver of the colony.”

was struggling to keep his bees alive and healthy. He had tried everything, or so he thought, to keep his bees in good condition, but nothing seemed to work. He suspected that the high percentage of very old comb in his hives might be part of the problem and sent samples off to a lab for a complete analysis.

A few days later, he got a call from one of the technicians at the lab who explained to him that they would be glad to take his money for an extensive analysis and report, but all he really needed to know was that nothing could survive in this comb.

He was dismayed at first and thought about quitting. However, rather than throw in the towel, he decided to undertake the laborious and expensive job of shaking all

(continued on next page)

Why COMB ROTATION is IMPORTANT – (cont'd)

the bees from every colony onto new frames and foundation. Six months later, he called me and reported having the best looking bees he had ever seen.

All of this begs the question, “How old is too old?” I don’t believe anyone can give an exact answer and suggest that it all depends on what the bees have been exposed to. Beekeepers that pollinate multiple crops each year and have a high degree of chemical exposure should consider rotating combs out more often than someone who is isolated from agriculture.

Some suggest that all combs should be rotated out every three years for optimum results, while others advocate the replacement of twenty percent of your comb each year in order to achieve a complete turnover in five years. Still others believe that by not replacing all combs at the same time, the migration of substances from older combs to new ones permits a continuous low level contamination. Some approach it from a business perspective and try to understand where the point of diminishing returns begins when

comparing costs to results. As for me, when all things are considered, I believe I am well served by replacing brood combs before they are ten or twelve years old. Please note: I no longer pollinate and this is only my opinion, and my conclusions are based on observations and experiences rather than a scientific study.

All beekeepers should rotate out old comb as a part of their overall management strategy and this includes non-treatment and organic treatment beekeepers alike. Any beekeepers who think they are immune to the problems associated with old comb are kidding themselves. We can’t tell the bees where to go or what to bring home, and organic compounds can easily have nasty interactions, too. Even in what seems to be a non-exposure situation, combs will eventually become contaminated and overloaded with undesirable substances, and will need to be replaced.

References

¹Berry (2001) “Effects of comb age on honey bee colony growth and brood survivorship” <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00218839.2001.11101042>.

Meet Rachel Bonoan

Rachael is a postdoc at Tufts University. While she is interested in insects in general – right now she is studying ant-caterpillar interactions – she did her doctoral research on the honey bee. In search of an answer to why bees prefer dirty water to bright sparkling clean water, she will be speaking to us about her discoveries about the preferences of bees.

Rachael has been a curious citizen scientist since childhood and brings her delight in the natural world to her talks. [The blog on her web page](#) is full of enthusiasm and fun ideas.

Rachael has [given a TED talk](#) on “Embracing Science as a Verb.” You will enjoy it and get a taste of what a wonderful speaker she will be.

At the GBA Spring Conference she will give two talks. Her first talk is on how diet diversity affects foraging in the honey bee. In the afternoon, she’ll speak on why bees like dirty water.



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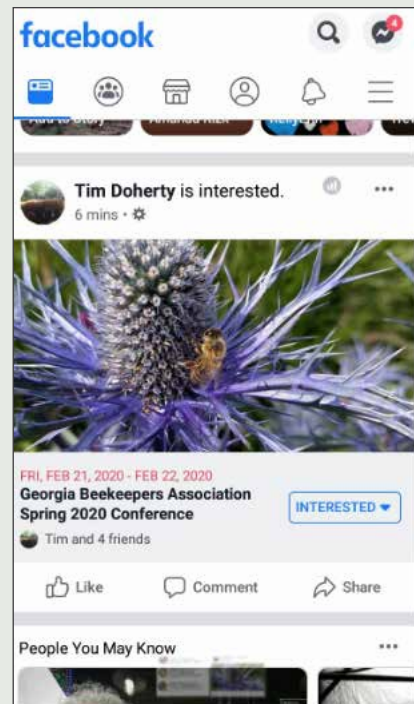
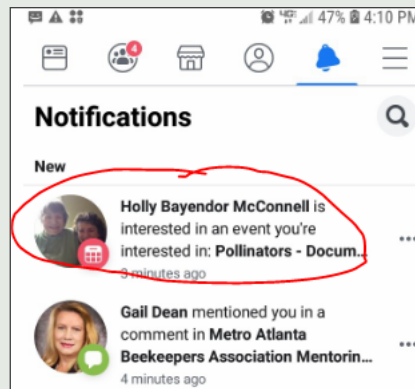
(many overlook)

– by Kelley Campbell
Forsyth Beekeepers

As your club plans meetings, classes, and special events, please let GBA know so it's shared in the newsletter, and please create a Facebook Event for these occurrences. It is very easy to use, takes only a few minutes, and is an incredible tool for networking, advertising, and sharing pictures (should you choose to do so). Facebook events are so much easier to share with others, search for later, and events can be effortlessly stored into an electronic calendar. Perhaps most importantly from an advertising standpoint, Facebook plugs

book will simply suggest these events to people.... and this far-reaching social network will suggest your club's beekeeping class, or monthly meeting, or honey show, to people nearby by slipping your Facebook event into their newsfeed, and by suggesting it in their 'events' section.

Even better! When someone says they are "interested" in or "going" to your Facebook event, friends of theirs on Facebook will get a notification that the event is being considered or attended by their buddy, and oftentimes, they go together.



your event to likely students, for FREE! (Facebook posts are fabulous - they are just easier to get lost in newsfeeds over time, and events are overlooked because of it.)

I dabble in many, diverse hobbies, and often I find out about events because a friend "liked" something, or said they were interested in attending an event. Somewhere on Facebook, Tim said he was interested in attending the GBA Spring Conference. Because Tim is my friend on Facebook, I got a notification. Free advertising for the conference, aimed at just the right person who will likely be interested in attending, as well!

All this insight makes its way into my little phone thru algorithms...we don't have to pay for! Since a couple friends are interested, Facebook knows I will probably be into an upcoming disc dog event. Face-



Sometimes I don't even know how Facebook comes up with the connection...I'm Facebook friends with Nick, and I've been to Kennesaw

Mountain before, but we aren't in any of the same Facebook groups...oh well! Free advertising! And if I "like" or "share" this, it'll reach even more people.

If I can't convince you to create a Facebook event for your club happenings, please let GBA at least know about your monthly meetings on [the Wufoo form](#). Please remember to [complete this quick form](#) about your upcoming bee school, it will appear on the GBA website for everyone quickly.

Fred Rossman

— by Gina Gallucci
Vice-President, GBA

Fred Rossman's father, Joe, had begun beekeeping as a hobbyist in 1928, long before his sons Fred and Phillip were born. The Rossman boys grew up in an established bee business, selling queens and package bees. Fred's father taught him everything about the bees. The business was Rossman & Long and the partnership with Emerson Long of Ohio lasted many years before they split in 1952.

When Fred came home for the weekend from Auburn University, he knew he wanted to be in Moultrie in the bee business. His father told him to make up his own mind, but he wished he would finish school. So Fred received his business degree, thinking he would be able to get a good job if the bees didn't work out.

Rossman Apiaries worked out very well. With Fred and his brother Phillip, they generally sold 2000 to 2500 hives, plus queens and 10,000 to 15,000 packages. They only had eight to ten employees and shipped all over the United States as well as Canada. Fred speaks very respectfully of Wilmer Phelps who grafted queens and Floyd Porter, and all the employees who managed the bees. Fred's wife Ann was also involved as the office manager, bookkeeper, and scheduler of all the shipping. When Phillip became disabled with MS in 1987, Fred bought him out and became sole owner. Fred and Ann ran the business until retirement.

When asked what he finds most fascinating about bees, Fred explained that he kept bees by kneeling down next to them, opening a hive and "watching how they operate and how they get along." He often worked nuc boxes early in the morning and the tranquility of it all, the nature of it all fascinated him. Fred said, "I like to look at pictures of bees with pollen on their legs and watch videos on slow motion of bees." Fred said that beekeepers are the friendliest people you could run across. "I can speak highly of beekeepers and their honesty; we took checks from across the country and rarely had to go back to them." He found beekeepers interesting to talk with and he liked hearing how they keep bees and what their ideas were.



Fred and Ann Rossman.

Fred and Ann always tried to be active in the local and state organization. They are both life members of GBA and sport the bee license

plate on their cars. Several years ago during a snow-storm in Moultrie, Rossman hosted a rollicking GBA Spring meeting, complete with a country band. Rossman Apiaries continues to be a part of GBA and an ongoing vendor.

This legendary beekeeper dealt with and treated for tracheal mites before varroa arrived. Because the tracheal mite almost took the business in 1985, Rossman Apiaries began selling equipment in addition to bees and queens. Fred believes the new issues with the varroa mite have taken some of the fun out of beekeeping. Rossman says that now, "You have to pay attention and you've got to do what needs to be done to get them to live."

Fred recalled how he let go of his life long career: He put the word out about the sale. After several possibilities and many months waiting, things would fall through. Their retirement was looking very grim. After Christmas Eve Service 2017, Tony Lasseter was walking out of the church. Fred asked if they could talk for a minute. "We then set up an appointment for January 12, 2018, on March 20, 2018 papers were signed. Tony Lasseter and his son Judd are now the new owners, with Trey Portier as General Manager."

Fred has shared his lifetime of beekeeping knowledge and goodwill with all beekeepers in Georgia and across the country. He is a GBA treasure!

Bee 'Shaking' Packs 'Em In For Journey

MOULTRIE — Fred Rossman and his crew of eight were "shaking" bees into two-pound packages via a big plastic funnel in the bee yard in about 90 minutes they had shaken 115 two-pound packages.

I had come upon the Rossman Apiaries, Inc., during the busiest part of their six-week



Dateline Georgia
By BOB HARRELL

bee packaging season. Fred explained, "Either you make it during these few weeks or you don't make it at all."

Fred and his crew were packaging bees, anticipating the arrival of a snowbound tractor trailer in Indiana. It was driven by a bee keeper from Manitoba, Canada, who would leave Fred loaded with

2,500 packages of bees. Consider the mess if that truck, loaded with 4,000 pounds of real live bees, ever had a traffic accident!

To a first-time visitor the sight of a bee-shaking crew in action is highly surprising. That's because bees object to being shaken, dumped into a package and otherwise disrupted.

Mr. Joe gave me a hat over which he fitted a bee veil. The crew began taking the hives apart, looking for the queen bee, feeding the bees their sugar solution and dumping a portion from each colony into a package for shipment to Canada. The air was filled with bees and their sounds.

I was considerably disturbed that every member of the crew rolled up his shirt sleeves and did not wear gloves while handling the bee-covered frames from the hives. Mr. Joe explained, "Bees will fight sleeves, get under 'em and sting. It's the same way with gloves."

The crew had their assembly-line-like duties perfected:

Several men would take beehives apart, remove the frames, find the queen bee, put her and her frame of bees back into the hive and leave the remaining bee-covered



FRED ROSSMAN ALMOST COVERED WITH BEES He's Collecting Them for Shipping

frames on the ground to be shaken. Along would come a man with a bucket of sugar solution and fill the feeder frame with food if the bees needed feeding.

The two-man shaking team would arrive. Fred would pack up a bee-loaded frame or frames and shake the mass into a funnel which led to a little cage held by his uncle. His uncle would weigh the package and lay a lid atop the cage hole. Thousands of bees

congregated on Fred's back during the operation. Along came the nailer, nailing the lid on the cage and they carrying same to the truck. It was a smooth and calm operation. Don't get the idea that a beekeeper can just sit back and let the bees do all the work. True, the little insects stay busy, but the beekeeper must attend to an unlimited number of duties.



At the Spring Meeting...



In honor of GBA's 100th Anniversary, there will be a collection of merchandise available for purchase.

At the GBA meeting, you can purchase:

GBA 100th year caps for \$10, T-shirts for \$15, and Car Magnets for \$5.



(Left) Here's our own Bobby Chaisson, the 2019 Beekeeper of the Year, sporting a GBA 100th Anniversary cap!



(Left) Here's the car magnet on the back of Julia Mahood's car, our 2018 Beekeeper of the Year and designer of the 100 year magnet.



100th Anniversary T-shirts.

(front)



(back)

ADVERTISING WITH GBA

An ad on the GBA website is a valuable commodity. Just ask Bill Owens or Bobby Chaisson of Georgia Bee Removal. Every year they bid to make sure they get the top spot on the GBA page ([see it here](#)) because they know that it will bring business in to their company. I think as long as GBA has sold these ads, Georgia Bee Removal has been on the top of the column of ads.

Do you have a company that could profit from more visibility? Participate in the ad auction at the spring meeting and you will find out how helpful it is to have an ad on the state beekeeping site.

The ad auction this year takes place between speakers at 9:30 on Saturday morning. There are guidelines for the ads which [you can find here](#).

The starting bids for each slot are:

- Slot # 1 \$600.00
- Slot #2 \$400.00
- Slot #3 \$300.00
- Slot #4 \$200.00

Of course, with the help of our fabulous auctioneer, Steve Page, we expect the bids to go up from these minimum starting points.

Not a Single Bee

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

– Pavan Sukhdev, author of UN report
The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, October 2010

Club News

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Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

At our January meeting, Philip from Southeastern Insectaries in Perry, Georgia was our speaker. His company has beneficial nematodes for controlling small hive beetles, for your garden and fruit trees. The process for applying the nematodes is very simple and should be done around April 1st and can be repeated later in the summer again if needed. On the Internet, you can find very helpful videos. One is about the nematodes in general and the other two deal with how to apply the nematodes around your hives.

February 10th is our next meeting at the Georgia Extension Service located at 420 10th St. in Columbus at 6 pm. This is a bee stuff (BS) meeting where members can ask questions and hopefully get any problems solved that they may be experiencing. We will also have "Meet a Member." This is where a couple of members will introduce themselves and tell the club about their beekeeping and other interests.

Coastal Empire Beekeepers

Since 2008, CEBA has offered a day-long beekeeping workshop at the end of February, the best time of year to start keeping bees. This year our FUNdamentals of Beekeeping Workshop is February 29th at the Oatland Island Wildlife Center from 9 am to 5 pm. CEBA.wildapricot.org/Events



Coweta Beekeepers Association

On Saturday January 25th, the Coweta Beekeepers Association held an Introduction to Beekeeping Course at the Coweta Extension Office. There were 50 participants in attendance. The course included a full day of presentations and refreshments.



(continued on next page)

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– (cont'd)

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

Forsyth Beekeepers Club (based out of Cumming, GA) has a full calendar throughout the year for anyone interested in beginning beekeeping, or extending their beekeeping knowledge. We have a monthly mentor dinner prior to each meeting, a guest speaker, for our meetings, as well as multiple classes throughout the year to support beekeepers and help us all be better stewards of the honey bee.

Our **bee school is a 2-day event**, starting February 29th in a large, comfortable auditorium setting to learn the basics of beekeeping practices and an overview of honey bee biology and behavior. Students have an opportunity to purchase bees for early spring delivery. Lunch is on site, with local beekeepers teaching the class. The second day is hands-on and hive side April 18th. Both days are led by volunteers who hold certified beekeeper status or higher. Beyond bee school, there are

over 30 mentors in the club who offer one on one mentoring throughout the year, so you're never alone or unsupported in this new or continuing adventure.

In May, Forsyth offers a **Queen Rearing class**, where students can learn more about how queens are raised by workers and what makes the queen so different than the other bees. Students may also learn how to graft queens for themselves, giving them the opportunity to walk away with four queens for their apiary.

Forsyth hosts a Welsh Honey Show in September with cash prizes and ribbons.

We welcome visitors! Please check out the **CLUB CALENDAR** for more dates, details, and sign up links.

Lake Country Beekeepers

In January, the membership welcomed our newly elected president, Tim Bramlett. Tim and his wife Carol, are long-time beekeepers and active members of LCBA. We are excited about his vision and leadership for our growing east-central Georgia beekeeping club. Bruce Morgan from Morgan Apiaries in Sparta, GA was our guest speaker. Bruce discussed winter hive management tips and insights.

On Saturday, January 25th, LCBA hosted our 8th annual beekeeping short course. Over 90 new and experienced beekeepers gathered in Greensboro, GA to learn from our speakers: Bob Binnie, Rick Coor, and Keith and Rose Anne Fielder. It was a full day of bee biology, bee nutrition, in-depth techniques on queen rearing, creating and marketing products from the hive, and an engaging question and answer panel. LCBA is fortunate to have so many experienced and respected beekeepers who are willing to come, to share with, and to teach others. It was encouraging to see so many young people and families attending who come to learn about keeping bees. We are grateful to the many club volunteers who planned, participated, and helped to make this a successful event.

Our February meeting will be on Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Dan Harris of Booger Hill Bee Company will talk to us about the "Expectations & Realities of Beekeeping."



Left: You can't help but learn beekeeping from this line-up of Keith, Bob, and Rose Anne.

Below: Morgan Apiaries booth at LCBA 8th Annual Beekeeping Short Course



Tim Bramlett – 2020 President of Lake Country Beekeepers Association



Right: Allen Croft – our raffle ticket salesperson extraordinaire.



(continued on next page)

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– (cont'd)

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

The LHBA beekeepers are lucky enough to be close to the Blue Ridge Honey Company in Lakemont, Georgia. The owners, Bob and Suzette Binnie, are tremendous supporters of our club. They not only speak at our meetings and provide donations for our short courses, but they arrange for our club members to tour their commercial honey and bee operation.

For our LHBA January meeting, members took a tour guided by Bob. Seeing the harvesting, processing and distribution of millions of pounds of honey is incredible enough, but having Bob as a tour guide is inspirational. Any beekeeper is fortunate to have the chance to absorb his incredible knowledge and experience about honey and the bee business.

On March 7th, LHBA will put on its annual short course. This is a one day session for anyone wanting to begin beekeeping or just learn about the amazing honey bee. For more information or to register email lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.



Bob Binnie gives our group a tour of Blue Ridge Honey Co. in Lakemont, GA.



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

On Saturday, January 25, we hosted our annual one-day "Short Course" introduction to keeping honey bees. An amazing 130 prospective eager future beekeepers were in attendance. Kicking off with a continental breakfast, the day-long event covered beekeeping basics like choosing equipment, installing bees, bee biology, and diseases of the hive, as well as flowering trees for bees, smoker lighting demonstrations, honey harvesting and more. Designed to get new beeks off to a great start on their beekeeping adventure, a panel of eight beekeeping experts delivered information and answered questions. Many pieces of equipment, generously donated by Mountain Sweet Honey, were raffled off to lucky winners. Attendees were encouraged to avail themselves of other MABA resources like monthly meetings, mentoring sessions, and hive inspections.

On Wednesday, January 15th, we held a screening of the new documentary film "The Pollinators," which takes a deep dive into the challenges migratory beekeepers and their bees face. The film examined at how regenerative farming practices can be implemented – even on a large scale – to reduce pesticide use, diversify forage and improve soil conditions. Presented at the Regal Tara Cinemas in Atlanta, MABA sold some 70 tickets to the event.



(Above, left) MABA's annual Short Course was attended by more than 130 prospective beekeepers. (Above, right) Linda Tillman, Holly Bayendor and Julia Mahood greet ticket holders at a screening of "The Pollinators". (Left) Georgia Bee Removal Operations Director Bobby Chaisson.

GBA's Beekeeper of the Year 2019, Bobby Chaisson, was the featured speaker at our January meeting. As the Operations Director of Georgia Bee Removal, Chaisson averages 150 bee removals each year. This wealth of experience allowed him to share insights into the ins and outs, and the ups and downs of the bee removal business. Chaisson stressed the need to understand both bees and buildings. His illustrated talk included tips and tricks he's learned on the job, as well as precautions all beekeepers should take before attempting this complicated task.

(continued on next page)

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– (cont'd)

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

Bob Binnie, accompanied by his wife Suzette, was the speaker at Oglethorpe County Bee Club's January meeting. Both are owners of Blue Ridge Honey Company located in Lakemont, Georgia. Bob spoke on two topics; processing honey and comb rotation. He explained the chemistry of honey and why it's important to understand what affect temperature, moisture and filtration have on honey quality. This information can be found in an article written by Bob titled "Processing Honey: A Closer Look." <https://www.beeculture.com/processing-honey-a-closer-look/>.

Later, Bob spoke about the largely overlooked task of removing old comb on a regular basis. Its removal is important, because wax acts as a magnet for pesticides and if fungicides are also present, old comb becomes more toxic.



Bob Binnie speaks to our group at our January meeting.

Dr. Keith Delaplane, UGA Entomology Professor and Water B. Hill Fellow, will speak about honey bee research at our upcoming meeting on February 17th at the Georgia Farm Bureau building in Crawford.

Tara Beekeepers

At our holiday party on Dec 7th, Ronnie Brannon was named our Beekeeper of the Year.

Successful beekeeping hinges on our thorough understanding of honey bee biology. Join us on February 17th at 7 p.m. to brush up on these basics and you'll be better prepared to make successful splits, decide on pest treatment and how to use it, get your bees through the winter, and other forms of colony management.

Our Beekeepers' Corner will focus on How the Bees' Anatomy Dictates What Plants They Can Access.



Ronnie Brannon was awarded our Beekeeper of the Year Award at our December Holiday party.

Tri-State Beekeepers

The Tri-State Beekeepers located in Trenton, Georgia attended the annual Dade County Small Business Expo in December. Visitors to our booth received information about our club and had an opportunity to buy local honey from our past president, Derick Forester, and handmade gift items from Beverly Lawson, Onvil Moore and Karen Shepard. Director, Sophia Price was also a vendor at the event offering her home-made cinnamon rolls, tea cakes, balms and salves. Our participation in events like this generates interest in club membership as well as supporting the local beekeeper community.



(Above) Sophia Price and (left) Derick Forester, Onvil Moore & Karen Shepard at the Dade Co. Small Business Expo.

West Georgia Beekeepers

Our monthly meeting will be held Monday February 24th. The guest speaker will be Keith Golden and the topic will be "Queen Rearing." There will be a question and answer session following the program.

Mary Cahill-Roberts will be our March 23rd speaker and her topic is "Hive Inspections."

We meet every fourth Monday of the month at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA, 30134. The mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00 pm.

Hope to see you there.

Club Meetings

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	Bee* School
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm			Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			marcushvac2@gmail.com	
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm			pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	February 8, 20120
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			arron_rob@me.com	
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, February 11	Jimmy Gatt, Honey Bee Biology	tawnalow@me.com	March 21, 2020
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			marymom51@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm			tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm			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, February 10	"Meet a Member" and general beekeeping Q&A	Jim Ellis	
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, February 11	Randy Rolen – Master Beekeeper and Honey Judge, Feeders & Feeding	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			spposey@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm	Monday, February 3		clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm			CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flatshoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm			eastmetrobees@gmail.com	
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 6:45pm			danielreidlong@gmail.com	
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			EffinghamBees@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, February 27	Butch Shelton, Biology of the Honey Bee	baileysbees@gmail.com	
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, February 18	Open discussion on Spring Management	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebug123@gmail.com	February 23, 2020
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, February 20	Dan Harris, Expectations & Realities of Beekeeping	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	January 25, 2020

Please note this month we placed **Bee School dates in the County column. Many thanks to Kelley Campbell for compiling the bee school information. Please contact the Clubs directly to register.*

(continued on next page)

Club Meetings

– (cont'd)

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Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	Bee* School
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, February 6	Drew Harvey, How to Make Swarm Traps. 2 lucky people will go home with one!	lakehartwellbeekeep- ersassoc@gmail.com	March 7, 2020
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbee- keepers.com	
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			ganofs@cox.net	
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, February 18		julia@mahoodstudio. com	January 25, 2020
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@wind- stream.net	
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, February 13	Gail Dean, Honey Fraud	officers@negabee- keeping.com	
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			kaizen.thornberry@ gmail.com	
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			secretary@oabees. com	
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, February 17	Dr. Keith Delaplane on the latest UGA research	joecontibeas@aol. com	
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			victor@makinhoney. com	
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes. k12.ga.us	
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm			polkcountybeekeep- ers@gmail.com	
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			potatocreekbeekeep- ers@gmail.com	January 18, 2020
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			info@sowegabee- keepers.org	
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm			maryc7@aol.com	
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm			threecountybees@ gmail.com	
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, February 10	Dan Long on Beelining	info@tricitybee- keepers.net	
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			tristatebeekeepers1@ gmail.com	
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm			neatermyer@aol.com	
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm			twinriversbeekeep- ers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			waltonbees@yahoo. com	
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, February 24	Keith Golden, Queen Rearing	2nparker@bellsouth. net	

*Please note this month we placed **Bee School dates** in the County column. Many thanks to Kelley Campbell for compiling the bee school information. Please contact the Clubs directly to register.



**CELEBRATING A CENTURY
OF BEEKEEPING**

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}



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Sophia Price

Bobby Torbush

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Bob Binnie

Bob Binnie is a past president of GBA and owns and operates Blue Ridge Honey Co. in Lakemont, Georgia. Bob began his commercial beekeeping career in Oregon in 1981 and has been heavily involved in pollination and honey production as a commercial migratory beekeeper for nearly forty years.



Rachael Bonoan

Rachael has been keeping bees for seven years and received her Ph.D. studying honey bee nutrition and behavior. Outside of research, Rachael teaches a class on insect pollinators at Tufts University, has given a TEDx talk on engaging children in science, and is past-president of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association.



Kirsten Traynor, PhD

Kirsten Traynor started *Two Million Blossoms: protecting our pollinators*, a new quarterly magazine. She's currently a research associate at Arizona State University where she investigates how honey bees communicate and the impacts of pesticide, and she works in a robotics lab in Berlin, Germany. Kirsten is the author of *Simple, Smart Beekeeping*.



Wyatt Mangum, PhD

Dr. Mangum has kept bees since the age of ten. During high school, he had 125 colonies. After obtaining his PhD in genetics, he worked with bees in South America, Asia, and Africa. Dr. Mangum maintains a large collection of old beekeeping equipment, dating back to the early 1800s.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



{Please click [here](#) to register for the Spring Conference.}

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 21

3:00-4:00 PM Artisan Show entries accepted, UH 246, 247

5:00-6:15 PM Board Meeting, JSAC second floor

6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, JSAC Ballroom

7:00 PM Dinner & lecture by Bob Binnie:
Adventures in commercial migratory beekeeping

Saturday, February 22

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

8:00-10:00 AM Artisan Show entries accepted, UH 246, 247

8:30 AM Opening remarks: Linda Tillman, GBA President

8:45 AM Rachel Bonoan:
How diet diversity affects foraging

9:30 AM GBA website Ad Auction

9:45 AM Kirsten Traynor:
How Beekeepers Can Advocate for Public Health

10:30 AM BREAK • *Visit vendors and walk to breakouts*

11:00 AM Morning Breakout Sessions

11:45 AM LUNCH

12:45 PM Wyatt Mangum:
Beekeeping in the 1870s and An Early Georgia Beekeeping Publication

1:30 PM Kirsten Traynor:
Thinking outside the box for Varroa control

2:15 PM Artisan Show awards announced

2:45 PM CUPCAKE BREAK • *View Artisan Show*

3:15 PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions

4:25 PM Rachael Bonoan:
Why do honey bees like dirty water?

5:05 PM Raffle Drawings, pick up show entries



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

Kathleen Bourn

Kathleen enjoys building a variety of hives and equipment for her 10-20 colonies in Hart County Ga. She builds her own Langstroths, top bars, Warres, OH, long Langs, and Layens hives. Kathleen is past-president and treasurer of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, GBA newsletter co-editor and a member of MABA.



Ted Dennard

Ted, founder of Savannah Bee Company, grew up on St. Simons Island. He was introduced to bees in 1979 when Roy Hightower placed hives on his family's land. He taught beekeeping in the Peace Corps in Jamaica and began The BeeCause Project in 2014.



Kristofer Lamey

Kristofer's work straddles a fine line that resides between art and design. Many, lost within the engineering of his creations, like to push his work out of the category of art and into the realm of design. His art is in collections in Paris, New York and Los Angeles.



Harold Lanier

Harold has been keeping bees for 10+ years. He manages from 50-150 colonies and owns Lanier Bee Barn in Commerce, GA. where he sells nucs, packages, honey, and beekeeping supplies. Harold also teaches his hands-on, all-day Beekeeping Boot Camp six to eight times each year. Harold is a UGA Journeyman Beekeeper.



Steven Page

Steven has over a decade of treatment-free beekeeping experience and manages 50 to 75 colonies in Coweta County, Georgia. After years of costly purchases of colonies and queens, resulting in poor performance, Steven developed Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping in 2014, a simple, sustainable, and inexpensive beekeeping method for small beekeepers.



Tom Rearick

Some men's midlife crises end in sports cars or mistresses. Tom's ended in honey bees and he could not have found a more intellectually challenging pursuit. He is a UGA Master Beekeeper and a member of the GBA and Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association.



Virginia Webb

Virginia is a third generation beekeeper. Along with her husband Carl Webb, they operate MtnHoney, a commercial beekeeping operation in Habersham County, Georgia. She has been teaching how to make candles and other beeswax crafts for more than 20 years.

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each breakout session is held in the morning, 11:00-11:45, and repeats in the afternoon, 3:15-4:00, *except where indicated.*

Kathleen Bourn: Beyond The Bee: Keeping Club Members Connected • UH 220
Beekeeping clubs offer the opportunity to socialize and learn from others, but keeping members interested and educated is a challenge. Kathleen shares ideas for making the bee club experience as social and productive as a honey bee colony.

Harold Lanier: The Swarm! • UH 243
What is a swarm? Why do bees swarm? How do they make up their minds? Where do they go? What kind of cavity are they looking for? We will answer these and other questions when we discuss one of the honey bees' most basic instincts. Based, in part, on Dr. Tom Seeley's book, *Honey Bee Democracy*.

Steven Page: Treatment-Free Beekeeping, the benefits of raising queens, and letting colonies die • UH 248
Why treatments to control mites will not work in the long term, but the industry wants you to treat for mites. The potential dangers in purchased queens and bees. Letting inferior colonies die to develop survivor stock. Hobby beekeepers with more than five colonies are essential for the future of beekeeping.

Tom Rearick: What Honey Bees Tell Us About Natural Intelligence • UH 221
Our debt to the honey bee is long and deep. For nine millennia, bees have provided sweet honey, wax candles, medicines, and pollination. But her greatest gift may be finally solving the deepest mystery of all time: how intelligence works. Learn how the honey bee informs us about the workings of the human brain.

Virginia Webb: Beyond Just Beeswax • UH 224
Learn how to take raw beeswax and do a simple rendering of the wax for the start of making beeswax candles, ornaments and other items. This is a hands-on workshop that will give even the first-time beekeeper confidence to pour beautiful candles and other items for show or sale.

MORNING ONLY

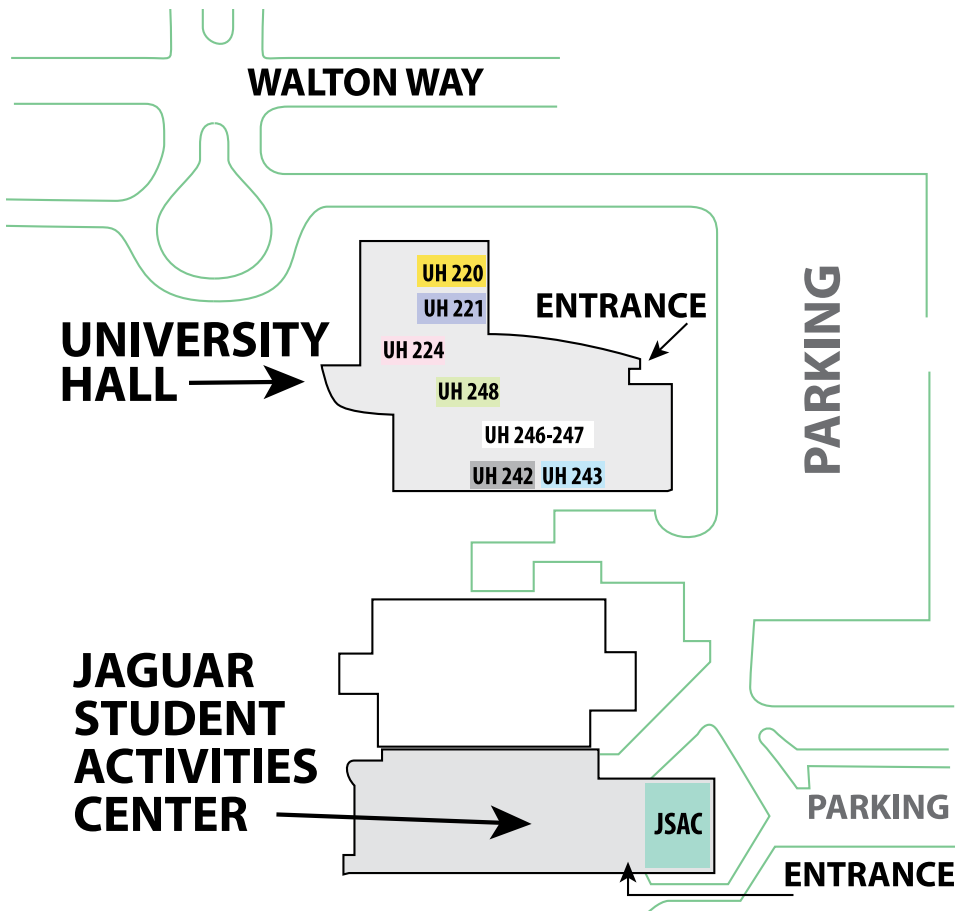
Wyatt Mangum: Studying Bees with Top-Bar Hives and Frame Hives • JSAC
From keeping 200 top-bar hives, we examine this hive design making beekeeping pleasurable while keeping it practical for backyard beekeepers. Keeping bees in different hive designs, frames and top bars, produce different but similar bee cultures. The two bee cultures can provide solutions to the other one's problems, helping both bee cultures to thrive.

Ted Dennard: Celebrating My Georgia Beekeeping Journey • UH 242
This talk will be a personal story of Ted's life with bees over the last 40 years with a particular focus on why Georgia is one of the greatest places to bee keep. From the tupelo swamps to the sourwood mountains, Ted will share how bees and Georgia shaped his life and work.

AFTERNOON ONLY

Kirsten Traynor: Two Million Blossoms: Honey for your Health • JSAC
Long before the advent of antibiotics, our ancestors used honey to treat a myriad of health issues. Superbugs continue to evolve resistance to modern antibiotics, making normal wounds difficult to heal. In search for effective alternatives, doctors are rediscovering the benefits of honey.

Kristofer Lamey: Expression in context • UH242
This talk is expressly designed for continuing education for honey judges, but anyone can attend.
What are the similarities between art, design and photography? Moreover, what makes them different? As a judge, from what perspective should you be examining art and photography? Why does it matter?



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HALL

First floor: Vendors
Second floor: Artisan Show exhibits in rooms 246, 247
Show prep in room 241
Breakouts in rooms 220, 221, 224, 248, 242, 243

JAGUAR STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

Ballroom: All main sessions and two breakouts

{Please click here to register for the Spring Conference.}



Spilling *The* Honey

MARCH 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our spring conference is behind us now and what a success it was! The meeting in Augusta was well-attended. We had over 250 beekeepers there with us in Augusta for the conference. Our membership is at 1076, 48 of whom are people who are new members as a result of their attending our conference as a nonmember. This is the first newsletter they are receiving. Welcome!

The thank you list is long and if I leave you out, I'm so sorry - there are so many people to thank. First of all, Gina Gallucci chairs our conference committee and is a champion at it. She thinks of every detail and does a wonderful job. She gets sponsors for our conference and asks vendors for donations to the raffle and for door prizes. She orders the food and coordinates the building.

Lots of us work on the conference committee - I invite the speakers, send out communication to the vendors, speakers, and our members, and work with Gina on all the details of the conference. To put this conference on, Gina and I talk almost every single day.

- David Logue was our main contact for the Augusta beekeepers. He organized volunteers to work registration, to sell raffle tickets, to sell GBA merchandise, to help with set up, and to bake hundreds of cupcakes. He got the balloons that decorated the stage and helped with signage. He found drivers to get the out of town speakers to and from the airport.
- Julia Mahood designed our program, made the wonderful American Gothic photo frame and ordered the cupcake flags and the GBA merchandise.
- Brutz English ran the honey show and did a great job. The new system of allowing entry acceptance on the night before the conference as well as the morning of the conference worked much better than the long lines of last year. He had a good team helping him - many judges, secretaries, and people working as stewards.
- Eddie Gwaltney made our dinner on Friday night especially lovely with his beautiful piano playing. His was a special touch that added a perfect note to the evening.
- Steve Page served as a fabulous auctioneer. We learned from last year and held the auction at 9:30 in the morning. The bidding was fast and furious and GBA took in \$6200 from the ad auction.
- Bobby Chaisson helped in so many ways. His company donated the multi-purpose name badges that I just loved. He and Harvest Hoffman worked together to get the name badges printed. Bobby stuffed all of the name badges himself between bee removal jobs. And he lifted, carried, helped in every way during the conference.
- Paul Berry managed the money, the late registrants, and the payment of all the costs of the conference.

And a huge thank you to all of you who came. GBA is about connecting the beekeepers of our state and your attendance allows us to give you what we can: good beekeeping education and the opportunity to learn from and bee with beekeepers from all over the state. Thank you for being an active part of GBA.

Bee Well,

Linda T



Observation Hive Lessons

– by *Mary Lackson*
Lake County Beekeepers

The Hancock County Library is the FIRST library in the State of Georgia to host an observation hive. The Hancock County Library is located in SPARTA, GA and is part of the Azalea Regional Library System. In January 2019, the Lake County Beekeepers Association received funding through the Savannah Bee Company (Whole Kids Foundation) and partnered with the library to establish an eight-frame honey bee colony. Maintaining and promoting outreach using the hive is the work of volunteer beekeepers along with library staff. The observation hive has created much community interest for both young and old. Individuals and groups come through the library, which is

open seven days a week, to learn and check on the bees. Books on pollinators and pollination, and other related materials are available near the hive. A ten-frame teaching hive includes large photos of the various life stages and views from inside the hive, and is another tool for the library. The Lake County Beekeepers Association meets monthly at the library and offers a “Meet The Beekeeper” session for the public prior to the meeting. In addition, our beekeepers host a Honey Tasting Day in August

and participate in the annual Community Career Day with the library staff. This spring, the bee club will install outdoor pollinator plots to demonstrate and offer ideas for planting a pollinator garden. The biggest challenge we face with the observation hive is how to best manage and treat this hive



for varroa. Hive inspections are doable but require removing the hive from the building. This observation hive has a home and is cared for by many in our community of Sparta.



BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

– by Virginia Webb

The Claxton Enterprise

A few months ago, I received a letter from a past GBA president, Reg Wilbanks. He provided me with a notice from *The Claxton Enterprise* (local newspaper) with a look back 90 years ago. The Georgia Beekeepers Association met in Claxton on September 11-12, 1929 with 75 members in attendance.

(The article from the *Claxton Enterprise* is available online – through their archives, but it is very difficult to read.)

That led me to an article in *The Dixie Beekeeper* where I discovered the actual program of this 1929 meeting. To my surprise, it is not so different from our meetings today. Along with the article and notice I have copied the agenda of that 1929 GBA meeting.

Here is the program:

ANNOUNCEMENT!
Georgia State Beekeeper's Association
Meet September 11th – 12th (1929)
Claxton, Georgia

GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS HELD
GREAT CONVENTION; NEW
OFFICERS; FULL PROGRAM

PROGRAM

Wednesday

- 10:00 – Call to order by the President A. B. Hamlin.
- Invocation – by Rev. J.D. Smith
- Welcome Address – by B.E. Brown, Sr., Claxton, Ga.
- Response – by N. L. Stapleton
- Object and Value of a Strong Beekeepers Association – by J.J. Wilder.
- 12:00 – Adjourn for Lunch

Afternoon

- 1:30 – Appointment of Nominating Committee. (Committee to nominate officers for ensuring year and select place of next convention)
- 2:00 – Value of Systematic Apiary Inspection – by A. B. Hamlin, State Inspector, Macon, Ga.
- 2:15 – The Most Great War “Man Vs. Bug” – by Representative State Board Entomology.
- 2:30 – Scope and Value of the Work of the Southern State's Bee Culture Laboratory – by (To be supplied.)
- 3:00 – Honey, a Health Food – by Mrs. Ross
- 3:30 – Round Table – Talks For Beginners, Questions and Answers.
- 4:00 – Social Hour – Meet your Brother Beekeepers – Trips to country, etc.

(Dinner break to local
BBQ Restaurant in Claxton)

Evening Session

- 8:30 – Visiting Speakers.
- 9:00 – Honey Production at Low Cost – J.W. Sherman, Valdosta, Ga.
- 9:15 – The Queen's Place in Good Beekeeping – D.W. Howell, Shellman, Ga.

Thursday

- 9:00 – Reading Minutes of last Convention: Secretary's Report; Reading Georgia Bee Law, by order last Convention.
- 9:30 – Methods of Inspection in Florida – Mr. Robert Foster
- 9:30 – Better Laws for Beekeepers – Ed. Bradley, Hazlehurst, Ga.
- 10:00 – Combining Bees with Poultry – Miss Mamie Roach, Daisy, Ga.
- 10:15 – Unfinished Business: New Business
- 10:45 – Report of Committees.
- 11:00 – Report of Committees.
- 11:00 – Election of Officers. Installation of Officers.
- 11:00 – Resolutions of the Convention
- 11:30 – Suggestions for Next Year's Program.
- 12:00 – Adjournment.



(continued on next page)

BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

– (cont'd)

Several of the topics at this meeting are similar to what we have been speaking on for the last 30+ years I have been involved with the GBA. Report from state beekeeping inspector, better beekeeping laws, importance of honey within our diet, Q & A for new beekeepers and the value of a strong beekeepers association.

Although it did not list the committees within the article, I was able to determine the two committees who reported were the Legislative Committee and Nominations Committee.

The convention ended with a statement from the founder that still resonates today, J. J. Wilder of Waycross:

“...Object and Value of the Bee Keepers Association, and told of the great progress made by the bee keepers in the control of the diseases and the development of markets since its organization, stating that every bee keeper in the state had benefited from the organization regardless of whether or not he was a member...”

100 Year Resolution



Last month, Georgia Beekeepers Association was honored in the Capitol by the State Legislature and Governor Kemp. We were recognized for 100 years of service.

It was a special day for all involved. Pictured left is GBA President Linda Tillman, with Gail Dean our Legislative Committee Co-Chair, and President of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers.

save the date!



GBA Fall conference

Sept 24-26 2020 –

Ramsey Conference Center, Gainesville, GA

Featured speakers: Cindy Bee, Jamie Ellis,

Dave Tarpy, Keith Delaplane



The Passing of the **BEES** to a **BETTER PLACE**

– by *Linda Tillman, GBA President
& Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.*

To sell my house and move to a condo necessitated moving my top bar hive. It's a beautiful top-of-the-line top bar built by GBA's own Andy Marcus. The bees in the top bar are a swarm that I captured in 2018 right after I put the hive in my backyard. The swarm was from a hive that had survived without treatment for four years.

I respect their ability to survive so to ensure their survival this winter, I did not harvest from these bees at the end of the summer. These bees are alive and well and had been flying on the warmer January days when it wasn't raining.

At age 71 with two bad shoulders, I knew I couldn't even think of picking up this hive. I asked Bobby Chaisson to help me. He recruited Jimmy Gatt and the two of them came over on a Sunday evening to move the bees. Bobby tried to lift one end of the hive and shook his head. There was no way two people could pick up this hive, as heavy as it was with bees and honey.

But Bobby and Jimmy were in my backyard and it seemed a shame to waste the time and energy, so we called some other beekeepers. Steve Esau and Kathy Bourn agreed to come over to help. Meanwhile Bobby, who thinks the beehive looks like a coffin, decided that we should attach some handles to it to make it easier to carry, like a coffin. Bobby, Jimmy (in full bee suit) and I went to Home Depot to buy handles.

We attached the handles, two on each end of the hive. We set up two stacks of hive boxes under the top bar hive to support it. Then Bobby and Jimmy removed the legs. Just as they finished, Steve and Kathy arrived within minutes of each other. Using every bit of strength they had, these four wonderful beekeeping friends lifted my hive and carried the bees to load them into the back of Bobby's truck.

The hive's new home was about a mile from my house in my daughter's backyard. We reversed the process there - we set up the hive boxes to support the hive; the four helpful friends lifted the HEAVY hive; carried it to its new location; set it on the hive boxes and reattached the legs. The bees were safely in their new home.

I was grateful beyond belief. No beekeepers were hurt in the process (to my knowledge). But they each agreed that they had never lifted a heavier hive. I wrote them all a thank you that night about how much it meant to me that they had come through for me. They all responded in the sweet generous ways that each of them approaches their relationship with other beekeepers.

The funniest note back to me came from Kathy Bourn. She said in response to my thanking her for her help:

"I was so proud that you asked me to be a pallbearer. I'm prouder still that I didn't drop the coffin. When you get a chance, let us know whose body is really in there."



Right: Andy Marcus when I picked up the topbar in 2018.



Left: Jimmy and Bobby installing handles.



Below: The "pallbearers": Jimmy, Kathy, Steve and Bobby.



Left: Loading hive into the truck.



Below: Final steps to installation.



NEED A MEETING TOPIC?

It's spring and the start of another beekeeping season. While you're encouraging your club members to set out bait hives and get their boxes in shape, you're also thinking about how to make the monthly meeting memorable.

Here are a few ideas we've gathered from your fellow GBA clubs:

1. Have a multi-club gathering.

Almost all clubs have either a summer picnic or a winter dinner. Why not go big and include your surrounding clubs? It's a chance to meet more beekeepers and maybe have some friendly competition with trivia contests and honey shows.

2. Help prepare your members to take the Master Beekeeping certification at Young Harris Institute this year. You can organize study groups or include testing topics as part of your meetings. Even the members who don't take the test will learn along with those who do.

3. Use ways to help your members get to know each other. At the start of each meeting, a couple people can get up and answer a few questions about themselves. (e.g. What area do you live in? What kind of hives do you have? What is the best thing about beekeeping?)

4. Let your members know about what community projects are available to them. This can be making a bee club float for a parade, an observation hive at a festival or speakers needed at schools and social events.

5. Mentoring is a must. It gets the experienced beekeeper involved and the new beekeeper connected. Clubs can offer Mentoring Gift Certificates that pair willing mentors with those who are interested in three or so sessions with a seasoned beekeeper.

6. If you can, it's great to have club hives. It gives the members ownership in the club's bees and sets up situations where members can see how other beekeepers work a hive.

7. Celebrate your beekeepers. This doesn't mean that everyone gets a trophy for everything but when your beeks do something great, let others know about it.



What's Going on in Henry County?

Have they Outlawed Beekeeping?

– by David McLeod
Potato Creek Beekeepers

As many of you may know, our fellow beekeepers in Henry County are facing a challenge with current zoning ordinances that prohibit beekeeping on residential lots. A proposal to change the ordinance was put up for a vote and shot down.

First, Henry County has not enacted new ordinances outlawing beekeeping. They've merely discovered a flaw in the Permitted Land Use section of their comprehensive zoning ordinance. Georgia's "right to farm" law does not apply as it solely protects existing agricultural operations on lots currently zoned for agriculture nor does it limit county and municipality zoning authority.

In Henry county, a couple started beekeeping and did everything by the book, but one neighbor objected to the mere sight of beehives in the area and began a two-year campaign to have them removed. After threats of violence and civil action fell through, he finally coerced a code enforcement officer to issue a citation for the bees as a nuisance. Since the lot was a residential lot where agriculture is prohibited (the bees are legally agriculture under Georgia Code), the bees had to be moved.

As a past president of Henry County Beekeepers Association, I was asked by Gerri Yoder of Henry County Animal Control to draft a new ordinance that would allow beekeeping on such lots. The county didn't want to prosecute this couple and wished for the whole thing to go away. Several months of back and forth between myself, Gerri, Danny Harvey the current HCBKA president and the leadership of HCBKA resulted in the draft of an ordinance acceptable to all involved. We thought we had the blessing of county leadership. Then the election happened, and a new slate of commissioners was sworn in.

The proposal came to a vote on the 4th and the new commissioners block voted it down, based solely on a lack of understanding and fear of our benign little honey bee.

So now begins the long and laborious process of bringing this back before the commission for a re-

vote. Before that can happen much legwork and education will need to be done. However, the ordinance would have actually done nothing for the beekeepers of Henry County.

The proposal came to a vote on the 4th and the new commissioners block voted it down, based solely on a lack of understanding and fear of our benign little honey bee.

The prohibition lies in the Permitted Land Use section of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. The proposed ordinance we were attempting to pass was being done so in the Animal Control Ordinance. Now we know that we have to go into the zoning ordinance for the correct change and while we're at it, maybe we should also address the fact that simple vegetable gardens are prohibited as well under the term crop garden. At least that's how we're going to recruit allies on this one.

It piqued my interest about what other counties might have hidden in their ordinance books and the results are not encouraging. Suffice it to say Potato Creek may be facing a similar dilemma in the future. Now is the time to be laying the groundwork for when we have to address this. We need to be proactive in our communities, getting out and meeting our commissioners and educating our neighbors that bees are far more beneficial in our backyards being managed by skillful beekeepers than being outlawed to the countryside.

[Editor's note: Danny Harvey, president of the Henry County Beekeepers Assoc., added that their strategy is to attend as many venues as possible with the intent to educate not agitate. They will also have a petition for people to sign in support of the proposed ordinance.]

LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

– by Kathleen Bourn
Spilling the Honey Editor, GBA

Ted Dennard

When we think of beekeeping legends we tend to think of those whose comb is getting a bit hard and dark and maybe their hive tool is a little dull. But some beekeepers in Georgia can be considered legends, no matter their age, because of their impact on beekeeping and the bee business. Few can argue the contribution Ted Dennard has made toward elevating beekeeping and educating people about honey bees and the products of the hive.



Even though he officially started Savannah Bee Company in 2002, Dennard has been making his way down the path to the bee yard long before that. In the 1970s, Ted's father created a nature retreat near Brunswick, Ga. It's there that Ted met the man he credits for his beekeeping beginning, Roy Hightower. Old Roy, as he was known, put hives on the 90 acre property and proceeded to draw 12 year old Ted into the world of wonder we know as beekeeping.

It seems Ted didn't follow his passion as much as his passion followed him. While at college he lived with a minister who happened to be a beekeeper. Ted's service in the Peace Corp consisted of teaching beekeeping in Jamaica. After returning to Savannah, his vocation was teaching but his avocation was still honey bees.

The next step on the path was for Ted to start selling some of his honey at a local shop. After that he realized that starting a business is like keeping bees; once you move past fretting about getting stung you can get on with being calm about what you need to accomplish.

Ted often says: "I have been able, with tremendous amounts of help from others, to grow Savannah Bee Company from its humble beginnings in my kitchen to a business that employs more than 150 people, helps more than 100 beekeepers stay in business, and nurtures tens of thousands of beehives and their residents."

Another turn on the path was to create a not-for-profit organization that helps the next generation understand



the honey bee. With co-founder Tami Enright, Ted started putting observation hives in schools. That work became The Bee Cause Project. With hundreds of hives in every state and internationally, this project helps both people and pollinators thrive in the natural world.

Dennard spreads the word that opening up a hive opens up a sensation that only beekeepers can feel. He says: "It's like rock climbing or surfing; when you're doing it you don't think about anything else. When I'm beekeeping I'm not thinking about the past or future; I'm just totally in the moment."

Ted Dennard has elevated the honey bee along with the products of the hive to new levels in Georgia and yet he still helps others down the path to beekeeping success. All this makes him a legend in Georgia beekeeping.

[Editor's Note: Please tell us about the Georgia beekeepers who you consider to be Legends of Georgia Beekeeping. gbanewsletters@gmail.com]



The Artisan Show Winners:

— from *Brutz English*
Welsh Honey Judge

CLASS	PLACE	NAME	CLASS	PLACE	NAME
Beeswax Flowers	1st	Sheryl Brousseau	Condiments	1st	Kathy Howell
	VHC	Julia Mahood		2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
Sweet Meads	2nd	Michelle Mincey		3rd	Robert & Pam Wisecup
	3rd	Michael Minardi		VHC	Andi Beyer
	C	Robert & Pamela Wisecup		HC	Deborah Sasser
Dry Meads	2nd	Christopher Smith		C	Michael Minardi
	3rd	Timothy Hoffman	Honey Jar Labels	1st	Virginia Webb
	VHC	Bobbee MacBee's		C	Bobby Chaisson
Beers & Ales	1st	Andi Beyer	Artwork	1st	Sheryl Brousseau
	2nd	Michael Minardi		2nd	Julia Mahood
	3rd	Michelle Mincey		3rd	Karen Boger
	C	Robert & Pamela Wisecup		VHC	Eva Creel
Honey Beverages (alcoholic)	1st	Andi Beyer	Poetry	1st	Sheryl Brousseau
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau		2nd	Eva Creel
	3rd	Robert & Pamela Wisecup		3rd	Virginia Webb
	VHC	Daphney Glass		VHC	Michelle Mincey
	HC	Gail Dean		HC	Nancy Simpson
Honey Beverages (non-alcoholic)	1st	Robert & Pamela Wisecup	C	Georgia Zumwalt	
	2nd	Georgia Zumwalt	Needlecraft	1st	Harvest Hoffman
	3rd	Michael Minardi		3rd	Karen Boger
	C	Sheryl Brousseau		VHC	Nancy Simpson
Honey Cake (traditional recipe)	2nd	Daphney Glass	Crafts	1st	Paul Cerpovicz
	HC	Danny Harvey		2nd	Andi Beyer
	C	Georgia Zumwalt		3rd	Julia Mahood
Honey Cake (open recipe)	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau		VHC	Karen Boger
	3rd	Deborah Sasser		C	Virginia Webb
	VHC	Georgia Zumwalt	Notions, Potions, & Lotions	1st	Karen Boger
	HC	Danny Harvey		2nd	Georgia Zumwalt
C	Michelle Mincey	3rd		Michael Minardi	
Honey Breads	1st	Sheryl Brousseau		VHC	Virginia Webb
	2nd	Michael Minardi		HC	Sheryl Brousseau
	3rd	Harvest Hoffman	C	Julia Mahood	
	VHC	Georgia Zumwalt	Gadgets	2nd	Cory Momany
	C	Michele Mincey		HC	Stephen Jones
Confections	1st	Robert & Pam Wisecup		C	Virginia Webb
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau	Photography (open)	1st	Georgia Zumwalt
	3rd	Virginia Webb		2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
	VHC	Georgia Zumwalt		3rd	Kristofer Lamey
	HC	Julia Mahood		VHC	Bobbee MacBee's
	C	Michael Minardi		HC	Deborah Sasser
		C		Michelle Mincey	

(continued)

The Artisan Show Winners:

– (cont'd)

CLASS	PLACE	NAME	BEST IN SHOW
Photography (essay)	1st	Georgia Zumwalt	Andi Beyer - Honey Beverage (alcoholic) Major Division Winners <i>Best Artistry</i> – Georgia Zumwalt Photography (Selected topic) <i>Best Craftsmanship</i> – Paul Cerpovicz, Crafts <i>Best Brewing & Beverage</i> – Andi Beyer Honey Beverage (alcoholic) <i>Best Baking & Cookery</i> – Robert & Pam Wisecup Confections
	2nd	Deborah Sasser	
	VHC	Michelle Mincey	
Photography (topic: children beekeepers)	1st	Georgia Zumwalt	
	2nd	Deborah Sasser	
	VHC	Virginia Webb	
Electronic Media	1st	Sheryl Brousseau	
	2nd	Eva Creel	
	VHC	Georgia Zumwalt	
	HC	Michael Minardi	
Floral Display	1st	Karen Boger	
	2nd	Deborah Sasser	
	VHC	Virginia Webb	
	C	Eva Creel	
Decorative Display	3rd	Michelle Mincey	
	VHC	Virginia Webb	



PRISON PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

Beeswax Flowers	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Honey Beverages	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Honey Confections	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Artwork Related to Beekeeping	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Notions, Potions, & Lotions	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Poetry Related to Beekeeping	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison

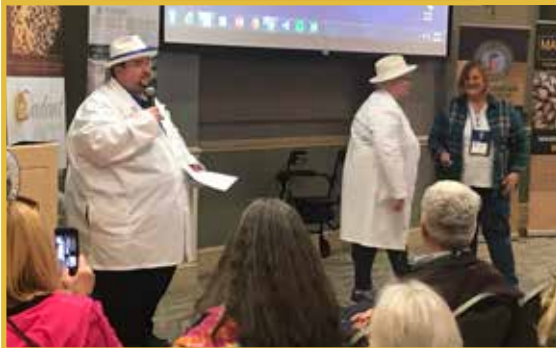
Officials:

Presiding Senior Judge: Mary Cahill-Roberts
 Senior Judges: Keith Fielder, Steve Genta, Jay Parsons, Brutz English, & Kara Bassett
 Judges: Darek Foti, Betty Cosgrove, & Nancy Deason
 Show Secretaries: Katie Goodman, Kenny Jones, & Joanne Gabryszak
 Stewards: Harold Deason & Pamela Carter

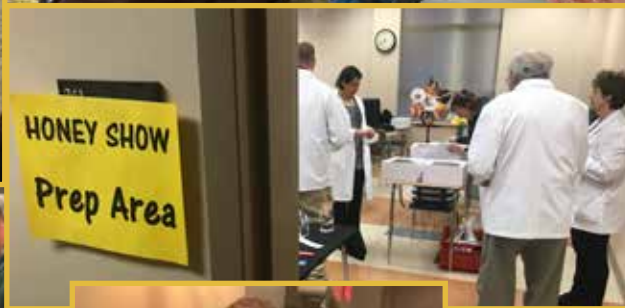
GBA Honey Show Committee:

Brutz English (Chairman), Mary Cahill-Roberts (co-chair), Marilynn Parker, Barbara Phillips, & Katie Goodman.

GBA 2020 SPRING CONFERENCE



GBA 2020 SPRING CONFERENCE



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers

Saturday, February 15th was the first class of CVBA's 6-week beekeeping course for 2020. Master Beekeeper Paul Berry (*below*) is the instructor for the classes. The class on February 21st was cancelled due to a conflict with the GBA spring meeting, thus for the next five consecutive Saturdays the course will continue at Oxbow



Meadows from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The first hour of each class is a lecture followed by an hour of hands on instruction in the bee yard. This year we have approximately 25 participants.

March 9th is the next CVBA meeting (6:00 pm) at Oxbow Meadows with Randy Hamann, Chief Apiary Inspector for Alabama, as our guest speaker.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

At the February 18th meeting of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers spring management was discussed. Jesse McCurdy (*below*), a 70 plus year beekeeper and mentor to many in the middle Georgia area celebrated his 88th birthday with cake and celebration. The club will be sponsoring a Beekeeping 101 class on Saturday, March 14th from 9 am-1 pm. The cost is \$20. Please visit us on Facebook or at our website www.HOGBA.com.



Lake Country Beekeepers

MARCH Meeting - LCBA OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, March 21, 2020 9AM - 2PM at Morgan Apiaries - 196 WJ Archer Road, SPARTA, GA (this event will be in place of our regularly scheduled Thursday meeting in March)

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association held their monthly meeting in February on a wet and chilly evening. Still over 40 people came out to hear Dan Harris of Booger Hill Bee Company (www.boogerhillsbees.com). Dan completed a horticulture degree and worked under Dr. Delaplane at the UGA Bee Lab AFTER he retired. His presentation titled "Expectations Versus Reality of The First Two Years of Beekeeping" offered insights for both our new and experienced beekeepers. Dan emphasized that often what we read in books or on the internet is not what we see inside our hives. The first three years are especially challenging and having a mentor while being active in a local bee club are keys to understanding and learning about beekeeping. While it is disheartening to lose our bees, if we can learn from the experience and not give-in we become better beekeepers to our bees and for one another in the process. Dan's to do list includes: 1. Attend beekeepers'

meetings regularly. 2. Network with beekeepers and find a trusted mentor. 3. Study varroa. 4. Don't allow losses to sap your passion. 5. Travel the internet with caution. 6. Never stop learning. 7. Open your hives regularly. 8. Be careful. 9. Be patient in all things. The LCBA group is growing in membership and passion for the honey bee. We invite you to come visit us and join our Facebook page @lakecountrybees.



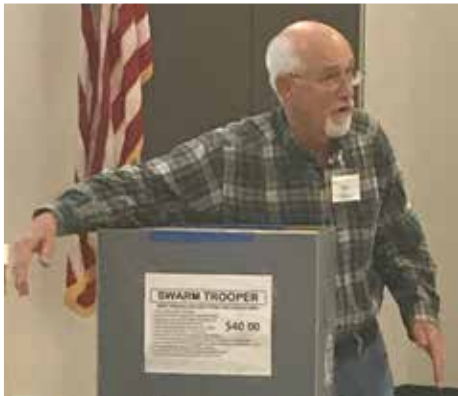
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Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

– (cont'd)

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers



The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers took advantage of the wealth of knowledge within the club at the February 6th meeting. Member Kevin McCraney and president Drew Harvey had a short information program about how to trap swarms. Both built swarm traps to demonstrate with and then give away. They also shared a link to the free plans they used (Dr. Leo Sharashkin's site (<https://horizontalhive.com/>)). LHBA member, Dave Miller (*left*) demonstrated his commercially built Swarm Trooper bait hive and talked about the ideas behind its design.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc. will have its 2020 Short Course on March 7th. Everything the beginning beekeeper needs to know is covered in this one-day course.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's Hive Inspection program offers a valuable opportunity for members to go through a hive with an experienced beekeeper. Held at several mentoring apiaries in the Atlanta area, these programs offer ideal opportunities for new beeks to learn the ins and outs of the inspection process. Great for bee yard veterans too! Hive Inspections are free for MABA members (non-member fee is \$15). Register at: <https://metroatlantabeekeepers.org/hive-inspections/>

Hive Inspection Schedule:

- Blue Heron Nature Preserve with Gina Gallucci (March 7, 12:00-1:30pm)
- Sugar Creek Garden with Brandon Tai (March 8, 12:00-1:30pm)
- Rucker Park with Ed Hoehn (March 8, 11:00am-12:30pm)
- Blue Heron with Gina Gallucci (March 21, 11:00am-12:30pm)
- Chastain Park with Jay Parsons (March 21, 11:00am-12:30pm)
- Morningside Community Garden with Linda Tillman (March 21, 1:30-3:00pm)
- Tapestry Garden with Steve Esau (March 28, 11:00-12:30)
- Blue Heron with Gina Gallucci (April 4, 10:00-11:30am)
- Chastain Park with Jay Parsons (April 4, 10:30am-12:00pm)



- Morningside Community Garden with Linda Tillman (April 4, 1:30-3:00pm)
- Sugar Creek Garden with Brandon Tai (April 5, 10:00-11:30am)

MABA will feature arborist, nursery grower and beekeeper Mike Connor (*right*) at our March 17th meeting at 7 pm. Connor will speak about the importance of trees for all pollinators in his presentation "Bees and Trees." An informal mentoring time (6:30-7:00 pm) precedes the presentation. The mentoring topic is how to catch a swarm.



(continued on next page)

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– (cont'd)

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

Spotty brood, closed-population breeding, inbreeding, natural mating, controlled and hybrid breeding and brood mixing were discussed by Dr. Keith Delaplane, (right) UGA Professor of Entomology and Honey Bee Program Director, during Oglethorpe County Bee Club's February meeting. Keith explained that evidence indicates honey bee colonies headed by hyper polyandrous queens have improved brood rearing efficiency and lower infestation rates of varroa mites. It boils down to this: with more genetic diversity and increased mating opportunities mites decrease in colonies.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club and Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association will offer several beekeeping mini-courses which will track the bee year. Go to ocbeeclub.com for more details. Free to club members.



Potato Creek Beekeepers

What a GREAT turnout! We had 37 new and aspiring beekeepers walk through the doors for our 2020 Spring Short Course. I think we set a record for the club.

A big heartfelt thank you for the presenters and volunteers willing to come out and spend the day helping the next generation of beekeepers. Remember these nice folks are our future if beekeeping is to continue. I would highly urge our members to come to the meetings and be willing to share your hard-won knowledge with them. As you and I know, beekeeping is not a one-time event but a lifetime of dedication to learning just what the bees have to tell us.

We asked the students to fill out a survey asking for ways we can improve as teachers.

We got great feedback and will be making changes. As part of the Short Course fee, all 37 are now members of Potato Creek Beekeepers Club so let's offer our new members and heartfelt welcome!



Tara Beekeepers

Bees and Trees 7pm March 16th, 2020

Jimmy Gatt, UGA Journeyman Beekeeper, returns to our club with an expanded version of his presentation from last year. He will also bring us new information about:

- invasive plants that look like good bee plants but are actually harmful
- exotic trees that are good for bees and whether we should use them or not
- how to plant for honey bees

After Jimmy's presentation, our Beekeepers' Corner will feature information about how honey bees access pollen, nectar, and resin from plants.

Debi and Jim Rogers, from Nearly Native Nursery, will also be at our meeting with a range of plants highlighted in Jimmy's presentation. These forbes, shrubs, trees and vines, will be for sale and they will happily bring with them anything you may order ahead of time.



Club Meetings

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please *fill out this form* to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	Bee* School
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm			Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			marcushvac2@gmail.com	
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm			pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	February 8, 20120
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			arron_rob@me.com	
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church, 202 Hebron Church Rd Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, March 10	Keith Fielder	tawnalow@me.com	March 21, 2020
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, March 9	Steve Posey, Swarm Traps & Prevention	marymom51@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm			tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm			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			Jim Ellis	
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, March 10	David Reed of Erma's Bees, Starting with Bees.	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			spposey@gmail.com	February 8, 2020
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm	Monday, March 30	Charles Phillips, local plants - sources of honey	clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm			CEBA.OIWC@Gmail.com	
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, March 9	Bobby Torbush, Bee Plants	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flatshoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, March 24	Panel discussion, Spring Hive management	eastmetrobees@gmail.com	
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website *	1st Monday, 6:45pm			danielreidlong@gmail.com	
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			EffinghamBees@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, March 26	Bobby Chaisson - Exterior Inspections of a Beehive	baileysbees@gmail.com	
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebug123@gmail.com	February 23, 2020
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	*Special date: Sat. March 21	*See Club News: Morgan Apiaries Open House	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	January 25, 2020

*Please note this month we placed **Bee School dates** in the County column. Many thanks to Kelley Campbell for compiling the bee school information. Please contact the Clubs directly to register.

(continued on next page)

Club Meetings

– (cont'd)

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Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	Bee* School
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, April 2	Keith Fielder on Making Creamed Honey	lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	March 7, 2020
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			ganofs@cox.net	
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA)	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, March 17	Mike Connor - Blooming Trees for Bees	julia@mahoodstudio.com	January 25, 2020
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream.net	
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			officers@negabeekeeping.com	
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			secretary@oabees.com	
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, March 16	Corey Momany, Spring Man- agement and Cool Toys	joecontibeas@aol.com	
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			victor@makinhoney.com	
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601				bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	
Polk County Beekeepers	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm			polkcountybeekeepers@gmail.com	
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	Thursday, March 19	David McLeod - Varroa Management	potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	January 18, 2020
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			info@sowegabeekeepers.org	
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Monday, March 16	Jimmy Gatt, how to plant for honey bees and more	maryc7@aol.com	
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm			threecountybees@gmail.com	
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, March 9	Julia Mahood - Tips and tricks to make beekeeping easier	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	Monday, March 16	Catching Swarms	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm			neatermyer@aol.com	
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm			twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			waltonbees@yahoo.com	
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm			2nparker@bellsouth.net	

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Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



spend some of the license plate proceeds to subscribe to the Pro version of Zoom. We want to support our local clubs and to keep beekeeping education going all across the state, despite the limits of the coronavirus.

Zoom is a platform that will allow a club to have your scheduled speaker present to your club remotely! Ahead of the meeting, each club member will get a link to sign into Zoom at the appointed meeting time. You do not have to have a Zoom account, although in some instances, you may have to download the Zoom app in order to participate. Most of the time, though, all you have to do is to click on the link to the meeting provided by GBA and you will join all of your fellow beekeepers to hear your speaker online. If you worry about security of your meeting, the meeting can be set up with a password for entry.

Also, you can have board meetings with our Zoom account. Committees can meet with our Zoom account. GBA will provide the use of Zoom free to our local clubs. All that we ask is that your officers must all be members of GBA (\$15 a year).

We've checked with the speakers on our GBA speakers bureau and many of them have agreed to use the Zoom platform to provide programs for you. [You can see the list here.](#) It is up to each speaker as to whether they charge a fee for their talks, but many of us are glad to do it for little or no cost because we don't have to drive long distances to give a Zoom talk! If the speaker permits it, we can record the presentation, allowing an accumulation of good talks for GBA to maintain in a speakers' library for clubs to use in the future.

I have talked to one club about possibly presenting their bee school on Zoom. My local bee club does group hive inspections which we can no longer have inside the city of Atlanta. I went to my hives and did a video of my

We are learning as we go, but we think this will be a fantastic opportunity to offer our local clubs both now in the time of coronavirus and going forward.

Bee well and stay healthy,

Linda T
President, Georgia Beekeepers Association

In this time of the coronavirus, beekeeping and bee clubs are being deeply affected. In much of the state, we are asked to stay home and avoid either being infected by close contact with others or infecting others if we are unknowingly carrying the virus. Not being able to gather with each other hampers hive inspections, short courses, and bee club meetings.

THE BIG NEWS:

GBA has agreed to

inspection, showing the frames to the camera and talking out loud about what I was doing as if I had a group watching. I presented that video inspection on Zoom to the group who was supposed to get to attend in person. Without being actually at the inspection, they could still ask me questions as they watched the video. And I am the speaker for Eastern Piedmont Bee Club on April 6th. We are going to do that meeting as our guinea pig test for having Zoom meetings. It is quite easy to present a PowerPoint in a Zoom meeting. And, Zoom offers the opportunity for interaction between the club members and the speaker.

Our GBA Zoom account is available as a gift to any club who wants to use it for upcoming meetings. Even not in the time of the coronavirus, it offers your club the ability to get a speaker to present from afar. To arrange for this for your bee club, several things need to be in place:

1. Internet must be available wherever the meeting is being held. Or if your members are watching from home, each must have Internet available. If a remote speaker is speaking to a club meeting, the club's meeting site must have Internet. If you don't have Internet, you can still join the meeting using a provided phone number - you can then hear the presentation, but not see it.
2. Up to 100 participants can sign into a Zoom meeting from individual computers. Larger clubs like MABA or Forsyth can have the Zoom presentation occur on Facebook Live which means that every single one of their members can see it at home on Facebook, but with the quality of Zoom.
3. Currently to use Zoom you have to schedule your meeting through [either me](#) or with [Gina](#). We have two host accounts which means that two different GBA clubs could have a Zoom presentation at 7 PM on Monday, for example. If the demand is large enough, we can add another account, but we think that two will be enough for now.
4. All of the club officers must be members of GBA.



Beekeeping BUYING Power

– by Dan Long
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers

This spring, Oglethorpe County Bee Club and Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association collaborated on a bulk purchase of honey jars from Rossman Apiaries. OCBC President, Cory Momany, coordinated the effort and made the purchase in advance of the spring Georgia Beekeepers Association meeting in Augusta.

Why do this? Not all club members can make it to the state conferences to take advantage of pre-purchasing from a supplier. This often leaves them with the expensive and risky option of shipping glass; which is not guaranteed against breakage by most suppliers.

In addition, Rossman offers a good discount for larger quantities. Some items were considerably cheaper due to the total number of cases the group bought. And, of course, all of them were much cheaper without shipping charges.

Dan Long, EPBA President, handled transport and distribution of the purchases back in Athens. The process went smoothly and everyone got a good deal. The clubs intend to continue this program for members in the future.



BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

[Transcribed from the Atlanta Constitution (pre-AJC) July 12, 1920.]

— by Virginia Webb

THE BEE INDUSTRY.

A few days ago between sixty and seventy apiarists from this state met in Waycross and organized the Georgia Beekeepers' association, the purpose of the organization being to promote the development of the bee industry in Georgia through the employment of methods under which it has been developed in many other states whose natural advantages do not begin to measure up to ours.

At the Waycross organization meeting—among those attending which were some of the most extensive apiary operators in the United States—the fact was brought out that Georgia, while an important producer of bees and bee products, is one of the few states whose laws make no explicit provision for the protection and encouragement of the bee industry.

With a view to remedying that defect, the new association unanimously adopted a resolution appealing to the legislature to enact a law making provision for adequate protection of the business of the producing and shipping of bees, wax and honey.

The particular purpose of the law is to protect Georgia beekeepers and dealers against the importation of diseases of the hive, such as exist in many localities, and are inevitable here so long as our laws provide no system of inspection of imported bees and apiary supplies.

As the Market Bulletin, published by the state bureau of markets, points out in its issue of July 8: "This is a progressive step; it is a method of conservation of a food supply, and in view of a sugar shortage, it is vital in the interest to every citizen of Georgia that proper recognition be given to the bee industry."

The market bureau takes the position that undoubtedly many millions of pounds of honey can be added to Georgia's volume of annual food production, and a million or more dollars added each year to the income of Georgia farmers, if the bee industry is given the encouragement that the proposed law contemplates.

A bill drafted in compliance with the tenor of the Georgia Beekeepers' association resolution is now pending in the general assembly; and it should be enacted into law.



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ANATOMY OF A HIVE INSPECTION

– by Kathleen Bourn
GBA Newsletter Editor

When the winter beekeeping courses are done and the equipment is mended, beekeepers long to hear the crack of the propolis from the first hive inspection of the spring. The only thing better than seeing an overwintered hive boiling over with bees is seeing that activity through the eyes of a beginning beekeeper. Brandon Tai, with the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc., got that opportunity on March 8th at the Sugar Creek Garden hives in Decatur.



About a dozen new beekeepers took advantage of one of the 26 hive inspection sessions MABA offers at various mentoring apiaries in the Atlanta



area. Like Brandon, several MABA beekeepers volunteer to personally introduce participants to a honey bee colony. Even before the inner cover came off, he took this group through the steps involved in evaluating a hive. Checking out the activity at the entrance, testing the weight, and taking note of the weather was only the beginning.

Among the attentive attendees were Virginia Chu and Nate Sinclair. They were students at MABA's January short course and got their ten frame Langstroth equipment together but they knew they wanted to see a hive inspection close up before getting bees. They jumped at the chance to have an experienced beekeeper tell them what in the world they were seeing inside a beehive.

The honey bee world can be mesmerizing but having a guide can make the difference between that world being opened up for a new beekeeper or closed up so that they never enter a hive again. When experienced beekeepers like Brandon take the time to answer all the questions, let students handle the bees, and be open about the good and the bad of beekeeping...it can make a world of difference.

Brandon not only covered a basic inspection, he also took students through the installation of a NUC, equipment tips, and how to deal with something all beekeepers will see; a deadout. Each session is scheduled for an hour but with all

the curiosity and questions, it's usually double that length.

The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc. opens up their hive inspections to members for free and non-members for only \$15*. <https://metroatlantabeekeepers.org/hive-inspections/>

Like most hobby beekeepers, Virginia and Nate are hoping for a little pollination for their garden, a little honey for their table and a lot of honey bee fascination for their minds.



Above:
Virginia Chu
and Nate
Sinclair. Left:
Brandon Tai of
MABA, leads a
hive inspection.
Above left: Tai
demonstrates a
nuc installation,
and shows a
deadout hive.

[Editor's note: *Due to the coronavirus ordinance in Atlanta, hive inspectors are taking innovative approaches to the on-site inspection. We are still accepting sign-ups for the inspection but the session is more likely to happen online as a discussion group or online watching a video of an inspection, followed by discussion. All of this is happening on Zoom, provided by GBA.]

DRONES FOR DRONES

– by Julia Mahood
Master Beekeeper



Drones are the Rodney Dangerfields of the hive, they get no respect!--at least from beekeepers who are only interested in honey.

What new beekeepers often learn about drones is that they are the male bees who have only one job -- to mate with queens from other colonies. They are lazy freeloaders, the spoiled kids who don't take off their shoes at the door and wipe out the pantry like locusts, a drain on colony resources. But drones are integral to the health of the colony. I once heard Keith Delaplane refer to drones as the "flying testes" of the superorganism. Bees literally can't reproduce without drones. Because of this, colonies have a biological drive to be droneright. We hear about being queenright, but being droneright is also important to colony health.

That said, having drones isn't as important as food and shelter, and if the very existence of the colony is in peril, the workers won't raise drones. In fact, if they have drones and come upon hard times – say there's a drought or dearth – the workers will refuse them entrance and either starve them out or the drones will find a home at a nearby colony. (Drones are notorious for drifting.)

Raising and keeping drones is the sign of a prosperous colony. I think of it like the bees having "trophy husbands" that they can brag about at the local watering hole:

I've long been fascinated with drones and I think the hook was when I found out about drone congregation areas (DCAs). Drones set out to fulfill their ultimate destiny by leaving the nest in the afternoon to cruise for chicks. They fly to specific areas we call DCAs to look for queens to mate with. The kicker is that honey

bee drones go to the same DCAs, year after year! Now there's no learning where the DCAs are from last year's drones because generally speaking they die in the fall after getting the boot from their sisters. (Occasionally you'll see a drone make it through the winter. I think those guys must tell great jokes.) There's a DCA in England that has been known to have drones in it since 1729! Fascinating experiments have been done to show that somehow bees know where to go, but how do they know? DCAs truly are a mystery in the bee world.

A few years ago I wrote a *Spilling the Honey* article about DCA hunting the traditional way, with a weather balloon and lure. [You can read it here.](#)

Spoiler: it didn't work so well. But there's a new way.

I've been flying a mechanical drone, which to keep the confusion factor down I'll refer to as a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle), with lure attached below to hunt for DCAs and IT WORKS!

Using a UAV to hunt for DCAs

Suspend lure below your UAV:

Use lightweight sewing thread to suspend lure below your UAV. If it gets caught on something, better to lose your lure than crash your UAV. You can tie the thread onto the feet of the UAV, or if you're doing it a lot you can use some lightweight jewelry hardware to make it easier.



Synthetic queen pheromone (Brand name TempQueen) is the easiest and most cost effective product to use. Consider getting your bee club to purchase a package for members to share.

Stored in the freezer, one lure will

last for many flights. It has a two week lifespan out of the freezer.

Attach the lure to something small that provides some weight as well as a visual marker for both your camera

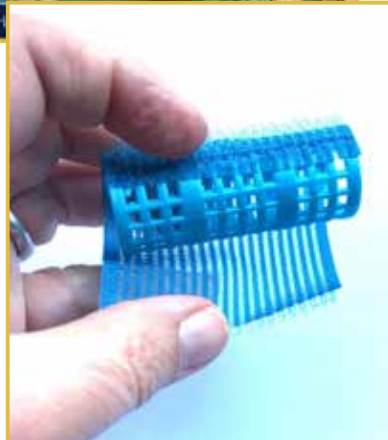
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DRONES FOR DRONES – (cont'd)

and the drones to see. Plastic hair rollers are inexpensive and readily available, and have the advantage of allowing air to flow through them.

Peel off the fuzzy outer layer to keep the thread from getting tangled in the roller.

A little weight helps, but too much will make the lure swing too much. In the photo (right) jewelry hardware is used for easy attachment and a key ring at the bottom for additional weight (about 8 grams is an ideal weight). It also has swivel devices to cut down on spinning. (You don't have to use the jewelry hardware, you can just tie the thread onto the feet of your UAV and onto the hair roller.) When you're finished for the day, put the whole thing in a zippered plastic freezer bag and store



it in the freezer, noting on the bag how much time the lure was out of the freezer so you'll know when to replace it.

Suspend the lure as far below the UAV as you can manage, to minimize the wind generated by the propellers on the lure. 16-20 feet is great. Having more space between the UAV and the lure will also provide a better picture of how many drones are flying around the lure when observing it from the UAV camera.

...to be continued. In the May issue of *Spilling the Honey* Julia will tell you where to look for DCAs and how to share your DCA findings.

Julia Mahood is the GBA 2018 Beekeeper of the Year and past-president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc. She teaches beekeeping at Lee Arrendale Women's Prison and designed the Georgia "Save the Bee" license plate. For more of Julia's advice on using Drones for Drones, see her article in the March issue of American Bee Journal.

MITE-A-THON

The 2020 North American Mite-A-Thon will run on May 2nd-17th, and August 15th-30th. This year, the Mite-A-Thon will have a spring and summer session in order to maximize data collection and distribution. The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect Varroa mite infestation data in honey bee colonies across North America, and all beekeepers can participate by testing their hives for mites, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the 2020 North American Mite-A-Thon!



The Bees Endure

– by Kathleen Bourn

“...The world is really one bee yard, and the same rules work fine in both places. Don't be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don't be an idiot; wear long sleeves and pants. Don't swat. Don't even think about swatting. If you feel angry, whistle. Anger agitates while whistling melts a bee's temper. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't. Above all, send the bees love. Every little thing wants to be loved.”

– Sue Monk Kidd:
The Secret Life of Bees



“The bee's life is like a magic well: the more you draw from it, the more it fills with water”

– Karl Von Frisch,
Bees: Their Vision, Chemical Senses and Language

“I like pulling on a baggy bee suit, forgetting myself and getting as close to the bees' lives as they will let me, remembering in the process that there is more to life than the merely human.”

– Sue Hubbell, *A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them*



“Everything takes time. Bees have to move very fast to stay still.”

– David Foster Wallace
Brief Interviews with Hideous Men



Keith Delaplane, PhD

– by Jennifer Berry
UGA Research Professional
& Lab Manager

Keith Delaplane grew up in Cass County, Indiana, on a small farm north of Indianapolis. The family raised pigs, and cultivated corn and soybeans.

There were many chores associated with the farm that Keith was responsible for each day. Even though he understood the inner workings of a farm, his heart wasn't in it. His ambitions and dreams leaned towards the arts. So after graduation, he left the small, rural environment for the big city and attended Butler University, a fine arts school in the heart of Indianapolis. His major was music and his instrument was his voice. Even though the love for music and theater drew him to the big city, it was the big city that drove him away.

As Keith describes it, he was 18, young, dumb and clueless. Growing up in a farming community did not prepare him for city life, which included large crowds, unfamiliar faces, acres of cement, and mind blowing traffic. So, after one semester he took flight back to the familiar: he enrolled at Purdue University in Animal Science, something he took comfort in. Even though he did miss the arts, he knew one day he would eventually find his way back.

After four years, he received his bachelor's in science, but wasn't exactly sure what was next. He was encouraged to pursue a master's degree in Entomology with a specialty in honey bees. It was like a brick had hit him in the head. "Why hadn't I ever thought of this? I've been a beekeeper since the age of 13, and I love bees," but he had never considered it as a career. Keith, received his master's degree in two years under the direction of Dr. John Harbo. Next he pursued a PhD at LSU, which laid the groundwork for certain fundamental understandings about foraging ecology in termites.

Upon graduation, Dr. John Harbo encouraged Keith to apply for a newly-opened position at UGA. At the time, the position was 100% extension with the emphasis on beekeeping, education and pesticides. After five years of hard work, he was tenured and offered the position he desired, with a research and teaching appointment. He

was given a lab, (Dr. Dietz's old building), and a truck – but no funding. It was hard to lure graduate students or conduct research projects with no money. For years, the only money available came from small donations given by the GA Beekeepers Association and other local clubs. Time after time, grants he submitted were denied. It wasn't until the early 2000s that Keith was finally successful in landing substantial grants after taking a grant-writing course and learning the ropes. Many GA beekeepers

stepped up and helped us out in those days: Carl and Virginia Webb, Bob Binnie, Jessie McCurdy, Reg Wilbanks, Fred Rossman, Lloyd Allison, Barry Wright, Stanford Day, Ben Bruce... There have been many others since then that have helped us out in our time of need –



we've been very lucky to have the support of the beekeepers in our state.

The end of the 20th century proved good for Keith and the UGA bee lab. Money released by the Georgia Department of Agriculture allowed Keith to hire a full time technician (that's me!) and build a new lab. The "old lab," as we so named it, was not only old, but limited in space. Keith wanted a facility that could house offices, conference space, and classroom space. Since then, there have been more grants awarded, more students graduated, and more research projects completed. A whole new era at the lab began, and the goal shifted to being locally responsive to the needs of the bees and beekeepers—but at the same time being globally relevant.

(continued on next page)

Keith Delaplane, PhD – (cont'd)

Another goal Keith set out to achieve was making the Young Harris Bee Institute the flagship of our extension efforts. Not only does the institute expose beekeepers (or soon to be beekeepers) to an excellent array of instructors with a vast amount of good, solid information, it also offers the Master Beekeeping Program. By equipping beekeepers across the state, region, and country with knowledge of the best ways to keep bees healthy and alive, our efforts have had a multiplication effect. Instead of just the two of us trying to teach folks and evaluate situations, now there are 100s of highly educated and certified beekeepers out there helping others. The efforts of these beekeeping ambassadors have an overreaching impact in our state and region, which is why Keith has strived for the bee institute to be the best of its kind – not only rigorous and science based, but also fun for the body, mind and soul.

To date, Keith has written over 75 research, extension and educational publications, authored three books, and has been an editor for several others – including the 42nd edition of *ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture*, which should be hitting bookstores soon. In addition, he has presented hundreds of lectures to local, state, national and international political, academic, scientific and beekeeping audiences. Because of this, several years ago Keith was awarded the Walter B. Hill Fellow

award, which is UGA's highest and most notable award given for achievements in public service and outreach.

The Hill Fellow is not the only distinguished award he has received over the years. In 2014, Keith became a Member of the British Empire (MBE). As quoted from an article written by J. Merritt Melancon, from the University of Georgia News, Keith said, "This is an honor I never saw coming. I am grateful to Great Britain and her people for the many rich experiences they have given me, both professionally and personally. I hope this recognition signals many more years of collaboration between bee scientists across the pond."

As I wrapped up the interview, I asked Dr. Delaplane, where do you see yourself going? He pondered this for a moment, then said, "Nowhere for the time being. I really enjoy my job and my life here in Athens. But I do want to continue to make the Young Harris Institute Master Bee Program the best of its kind. I want to improve the curriculum, make it more straightforward, improve on the pass rate – yet not dumb anything down. I want to be involved in research that is long-lasting and has a permanent value to science while delivering helpful information to our clientele. They will probably have to kick me out of here, since I am having so much fun."

For more information and to register, visit: www.gabeekeeping.com



SEPTEMBER
24-26



RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER
2535 LANIER TECH DRIVE
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

with
Jamie Ellis, PhD
and Cindy Bee, Dave Tarpy,
Keith Delaplane and Virginia Webb

Save the Date!



Join us in September!

Join us to celebrate Georgia Beekeepers Association 100 year anniversary!



DRIVE-THRU BEEKEEPER

– by *Kelley Campbell*
Forsyth Beekeepers Club

With all the chaos accompanying the “C” word, we’re all finding our club gatherings at a stand still. Granted, we can have meetings and presentations via webcam; we can postpone bee schools and provide literature; and we can chat on the phone...but, what about the actual BEES we’re getting?

Forsyth Beekeepers Club came up with a fabulous way to get nearly 100 colonies distributed, with very little contact! Organizers designated a narrow, two mile long dirt road as a one-way passage for this event. Volunteers directed traffic and kept it clear for motorists involved with the bee claiming. Other volunteers carried nucleus colonies to the trunks and truck beds of an awaiting line of cars. Fifty-two orders were filled in this manner by club members pulling into the road from the north, awaiting their “load,” and then pulling forward to head home. With the perfect weather the following day, most colonies were placed into their awaiting hives.

This method worked so well, we’re planning to use this “claim” method again in the future, but we hope to bring back the demonstrations and socializing for an hour before sunset as the bees come back in for the night.

I don’t need to remind everyone how depressing this social distancing can be...BUT — I’m thrilled to share ways people are accommodating each other and finding ways to lessen the stress around it all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone as soon as safely possible!



Photo of the beekeeper “drive-thru” by Mike Jernigan.

WELCOMING WHILE SHELTERING

I found it to be an obstacle trying to welcome our new beekeepers with "social distancing" and "shelter in place" mandates. So, I made a little swarm lure gift for anyone interested. I had them available for people when they claimed their nuc(s). It was just a cotton ball with homemade swarm lure on it, inside a ziplock bag. I encouraged people to throw the lure in their empty nuc box once they hived their bees. I really hope someone is surprised with free bees, or they save their own swarm that got away from them. I got the swarm lure recipe [here](#), from [Linda's wonderful blog](#).

– *Kelley Campbell*

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Henry County Beekeepers

On the 29th of February, Henry County Beekeepers held our Spring Beginning Beekeepers Course. We had a whopping 40 people in attendance (*top photo*). We even had to add extra seating. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all that recruited and spread the word about the training and to those in attendance. The students included folks new to beekeeping along with many members from other clubs. The next training will be the last Saturday in October.

On the 6th of March, Henry County Beekeepers (HCBK) assisted with a tree planting at Locust Grove High School (LGHS). The FFA students planted Eastern Red Maples on the school grounds. It was a project coordinated by the Henry County Farm Bureau. Jean Dykes, Office Manager (*bottom photo: front row 2nd from right*) coordinated with HCBK; Daniel Welliver (not pictured), Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairman; Abby Brown (far left back row), FFA Instructor LGHS and Sharon Burns (not pictured) District Program Assist for Henry and Clayton Counties, Georgia Association of Conservation Districts provided the trees.

To minimize the spread of the Coronavirus, all **events and meetings of Henry County Beepers are suspended until further notice.**



Lake Country Beekeepers

Our open house (open hive,) scheduled for March 21st at Morgan Apiary was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. This fun annual event will be rescheduled, hopefully in April or May. Because of the virus **our April meeting will be cancelled.** Hopefully we'll be able to meet in May. Follow us on Facebook and give us your questions and comments.

Many of our new beekeepers will be getting their new bees soon. Lake Country Beekeepers Association is here to help. We have provided our membership with phone numbers and email addresses. We encourage you to use the beekeepers in your area. Most beekeepers want to share what they know and continue to learn.

President Tim Bramlett, Vice President Beth Lewis, Past presidents Bruce Morgan, and Mary Lacksen invite you to visit our apiaries. We have all been there: transitioning from book knowledge to application only to find the best way to learn is from another beekeeper. Give your beekeeper neighbor or any of us a call to ask beekeeping questions and to peek inside the hive.

Finally, we recognize the stressful and uncertain situations that are ongoing in our communities and families. We hope you will make time to closely observe another Spring unfold as the bees, too, find ways to adapt and work. Stay healthy.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, we cancelled our monthly meeting in March. Decisions for future meetings and events (like MABA's upcoming Junior Beekeeper Programs in April and May) will be made with the guidance of state, city and county directives in place at the time. April's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 7pm (mentoring session to start at 6:30pm). The scheduled speaker is Jennifer Tsuruda, PhD. Like everyone, MABA hopes for a return to normalcy as quickly as possible. Until that time, MABA members should watch for email announcements and **monitor MABA's Facebook page for event updates and/or cancellations.**

In the interim MABA encourages beekeepers to participate in the online "*Stay at Home Beekeeping Series: Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs.*" Created by the apiculture research/extension programs at various SEC Universities including Alabama Extension, Auburn University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, The University of Tennessee Knoxville, and Texas A&M University, the online sessions will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics. Beekeepers can register for the FREE series at: <http://www.aces.edu/go/1196>

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Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

— (cont'd)

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

We may not have had the A-team but we definitely had the BEE-team for the 2020 Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc. Short Course. Linda Tillman, Julia Mahood, Bobby Chaisson and Harold Lanier had top billing at our March 7th beekeeping beginners school. The course provided presentations, workshops, lunch with a beekeeper, honey tasting, door prizes, and raffles for spring bees. LHBA members Randall Kerlin, Kathy Bourn and Webb Smathers filled out the program teaching everything from how to install bees to honey extracting.



Potato Creek Beekeepers

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

After discussion with club leadership **Potato Creek Beekeepers Club has suspended all meetings and public activities indefinitely** until such time as the risks associated with the COVID 19 virus have passed. We apologize for any inconvenience but in the exercise of all due caution we feel that this is the better option. The leadership will stay in contact regularly to discuss future plans and will keep our members updated. Expect the next update around the first of next month prior to our next scheduled meeting date.

On a personal note, as we have a good number of new beekeepers in their first year of apiculture I feel particularly bad not being able to hold our meetings. Please feel free to contact myself or any of our leadership for assistance, I'll try to keep our Facebook page current with the latest information. Also, since I already had this month's presentation PowerPoint ready I'm going to try to record it and post it to our Facebook page.

West Georgia Beekeepers

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association, Monday, April 27, 2020 guest speaker will be Mary Cahill-Roberts. She will be speaking to the club about "Inspecting Your Hives". There will be a question and answer session following her program. **The Club's annual picnic will be held May 30, 2020 at Union Grove Christian Church.** This is for members only.

We meet every 4th Monday of the month at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA, 30134. The mentoring session starts at 6:30 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00 pm.

Hope to see you there.

Tri-County Beekeepers

Due to the current health situation, **we are forced to cancel our April meeting.** Georgia Zumwalt, who was to be our speaker, has graciously rescheduled her presentation on how to photograph bees to our November meeting.



Club Meetings*

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm			Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm			pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			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, April 14	Bobby Thanepohn	tawnalow@me.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			marymom51@gmail.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm			tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm			cartersvillebeekeepers-guild@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			Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Tuesday, April 14	Julia Mahood, Drones and DCAs	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm			clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm			CEBA.OIWC@gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flats Shoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm			eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 6:45pm			danielreidlong@gmail.com	Clarke
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm		(meeting cancelled)	henrybeebug123@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm		(meeting cancelled)	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock

*Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.

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Club Meetings*

– (cont'd)

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, April 2	Keith Fielder, Making Creamed Honey	lakehartwellbeekeepersas- soc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeep- ers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			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, April 21	Jennifer Tsuruda, PhD	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream. net	Union, Townns, Fannin
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			officers@negabeekeeping. com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			kaizen.thornberry@gmail. com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			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 High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm			polkcountybeekeepers@ gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm		(meeting cancelled)	potatocreekbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			info@sowegabeekeepers. org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm			maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm			threecountybees@gmail. com	Bleckley, Pulaski, Dodge
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm		(meeting cancelled)	info@tricitybeekeep- ers.net	Banks
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			tristatebeekeepers1@ gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm			neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm			twinriversbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	Monday, April 27	Mary Cahill-Roberts, Inspecting your hives	2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

***Please note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.



Spilling *The* Honey

MAY 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Creativity is the name of the game in the face of the ongoing pandemic. Since it may be quite a while before bee meetings can take place in person, it's crucial that we figure out ways to connect, share beekeeping stories, and answer each other's questions. I want us to stay in touch with each other. Beekeeping is a community and beekeepers make the community function. So I'd like to suggest some ways to continue to "gather" in a virtual way.

As most of you know, GBA has a great Zoom subscription, purchased with license plate proceeds. Our gift to local clubs is the use of this subscription for your meetings. You don't have to have a speaker planned to use our Zoom account for a meeting. Of course, any time you have a speaker who is willing to use Zoom to present their talk, you can sign up for a speaker meeting.

Here are some other ways you could consider using our Zoom account:

- 1. Have a question and answer meeting.** Tee up some knowledgeable members to be prepared to answer questions. Members can send bee questions in to the president either before the meeting **by email or by chat** during the Zoom meeting. When the president says, "John/Suzie has a question," then you ask your question and the answer/discussion begins. The Tri-County beekeepers tried this at their last meeting and nobody wanted to end the meeting and go home. We beekeepers are hungry for time to talk with one another.
- 2. Find a good national speaker who has a video on YouTube.** Watch the video together (as if he/she were the speaker for the night) and then have a group discussion about the topic. Some start with an ad (that you can skip after a minute or so) and some are taped better than others - these are a few among many, many, many that are available.
 - a. Tom Seeley has lots of videos that are about an hour each on YouTube. Here's one on [the hive as a honey factory](#) and here is another on [Darwinian beekeeping from Apimondia](#). He will be speaking to GBA in the fall of 2021.
 - b. Jennifer Berry has some videos as well. Here, for example, is one on [an oxalic update she did in Texas](#) last year.
 - c. Billy Davis, who is no longer alive to teach us, has a [20 minute video on how to use the queen castle](#). There are lots of short videos of him.
 - d. Meghan Milbrath, who I am hoping to get to speak to GBA soon, has an interesting [talk on varroa resistant queens](#).
 - e. Keith Delaplane gave [this good talk on the hive as an organism](#) in 2013.
 - f. Bob Binnie has been doing some really good videos. [Here's one on feeding bees](#).
- 3. Use the Zoom rooms to set up mini-discussions led by members of your club.** You could have different small topics in each room: one devoted to making splits, another devoted to making swarm traps, another devoted to feeding methods. Then ask the leaders in each "room" to present a ten - fifteen minute talk on the topic. Members could be divided into the rooms and move to the next after 20 minutes - a short talk and then five to ten minutes for questions.

We have helpful [guides for holding meetings by Zoom](#) and [guides for presidents/speakers presenting with Zoom](#). We've had a lot of clubs already using Zoom and hope many of the rest of you will take advantage of this gift.

Bee well,

Linda



Wondering about Using for your Club?

Here is what some users and presenters had to say about their experience using Zoom:

Bobby Chaisson, President: Tri-County Beekeepers:

“When the availability of the zoom software came out we tried to figure out a way to use it best for our meetings. We were able to host a question and answer session for our first Zoom meeting and it was amazing. Everyone loved it and we are looking forward to the next one. This has been an awesome tool to keep our club connected!”

Dan Long, President: Eastern Piedmont:

“Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association was fortunate to be able to have an online meeting for the very first one we would have missed due to the pandemic. Everyone was looking forward to Linda Tillman coming to speak. The Board had discussed other options like a recorded video or posting her PowerPoint presentation online but a live meeting with Zoom was a great opportunity to be as together as possible. We were able to see and hear each other for portions of the meeting and the software was flexible enough to control the conversation during Linda’s presentation. The chat feature was also useful for helping members ask questions in a way that wasn’t disruptive. An email survey of members after the meeting indicated almost no trouble signing on or using the platform. It’s a very good resource and we’re grateful to the Georgia Beekeepers Association for making it available to us!”

Danny Harvey, President: Henry County Beekeepers:

“The input that I have gotten from HCBK’s members is as follows:

1. Everyone that responded thought it went very well and was glad we were doing it.
2. They all said it was easier than anticipated (for those that had not done Zoom before), myself included
3. As best as I can tell, only two people had a problem signing on. One was able to resolve the problem. The other thought had to do with his ISP (?) Greek to me. Something about some sophisticated security program he has.
4. I expect participation to increase for the next one.

Overall it was a great way for clubs to keep members connected and energized. I would highly recommend and encourage other clubs to do this.”

David McLeod, President: Potato Creek Beekeepers:

“Linda, I want to thank you and the GBA for a great opportunity for our clubs to continue to gather together via the Zoom app. In this difficult time it is so good to see the smiling faces of my beekeeping friends. It gives me hope we will get through this and gather again in person soon.

This week’s Potato Creek meeting went off without a hitch with a great presentation by Brutz English. I will be reaching out to our members and encouraging them to join in.

This last week I had the opportunity to meet with a state senator who has bees in his house, and I was able to give him a personal thank you. I pointed out the bee tag on my vehicle and explained that this one thing he did for us is now allowing hundreds of beekeepers across the state to continue to meet and learn.”

Brutz English, On using Zoom for his presentation to bee clubs:

“ZOOM is AWESOME!

I have been able to take part in three separate ZOOM bee club meetings thus far, two of those as a presenter and one as a participant. I have found the ZOOM program to be very simple to use. ZOOM meetings are easy to access, and the quality of the voice and video delivery is superior to any of the other internet video messaging services (Facetime, Facebook Messenger, etc.) I have used. I found the interaction with other meeting participants to be simple and efficient as well. If you haven’t given ZOOM a try you really should. It is one of the most valuable and effective resources the GBA has ever offered to local clubs!

*If you are a speaker who uses PowerPoints, ZOOM is a walk in the park. The share screen function is a one-click operation and then it’s like browsing through your presentation on your own computer. There is absolutely nothing complicated about it. I would encourage all potential speakers to give ZOOM a try. It is a fantastic tool that can help us share information and material far beyond our traditional geographic/travel limitations.”



BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

BEFORE YOUNG HARRIS BEEKEEPING INSTITUTE

– by Virginia Webb

– ANNUAL SHORT COURSE IN BEEKEEPING

At the University of Georgia, Dr. Alfred Dietz, Apiculture Specialist at UGA, started a full day and action-packed Short Course in Beekeeping. This first ever program in Georgia became an annual event for many years.

The program focused on beginning beekeeping and included morning sessions of:

- Lessons on Legalities and Laws
- Bee Venom Allergy
- Nectar Plant Presentation

The afternoon was demonstrations in the bee yard:

- How to properly handle & inspect your bees
- How to install package bees
- How to transfer bees from old “box” hives
- Recognize diseased bees
- Remove excess honey crop
- How to graft and rear queen bees
- Honey extraction facilities

The cost for the first-year short course was \$10 per person. This annual program continued until the mid-1980's and was a popular program throughout Georgia.



**Save the
Date!**



**Join us in
September!**

For more information and to register, visit: www.gabeekeeping.com



**SEPTEMBER
24-26**



**RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER
2535 LANIER TECH DRIVE
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA**

with
Keith Delaplane, PhD
and Jamie Ellis, PhD, Dave Tarpy, PhD
Cindy Bee and Virginia Webb

Join us to celebrate Georgia Beekeepers Association 100 year anniversary!

THE POWER OF GEORGIA BEES



The beehives at Hart County schools are not forgotten during this pandemic.

Last year Georgia Power's Environmental & Natural Resource team funded the purchase of two complete honey bee hives to kick off the Hart College and Career Academy's pollinator program.

Since Governor Kemp declared all schools closed for the rest of the school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia Power Area Manager, Kevin McCraney, performs hive inspections on the colonies at Hartwell Middle and High Schools. McCraney, along with other Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association members, developed a beekeeping curriculum for the schools. A grant from the GBA Buzz Fund provided all the support equipment needed to start teaching beekeeping to the students using the school's own hives.

"It's very rewarding," McCraney said. "Honey bees are one of the most fascinating creatures, and it's great that the schools can help to sustain the honey bee population."

McCraney is working on creating a Georgia Power employee-led beekeeping group.



IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE THE **2020** 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: Chair: Bobby Chaisson; Kelley Campbell, Steve Nofs, and Andy Marcus.

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 2020 will be made at the GBA Fall Conference.

DRONES FOR DRONES

PART 2

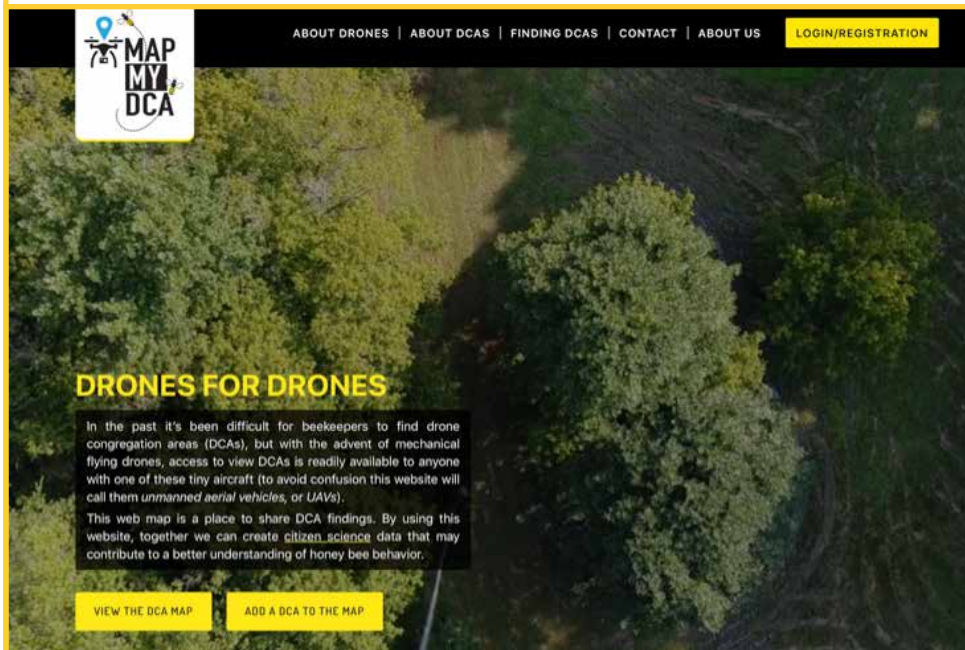
– by Julia Mahood
Master Beekeeper

Part 1 of this article appears in the April issue of *Spilling the Honey* (pgs 5-6). In it, Julia demonstrated how she uses drones (or UAVs) to search for drone congregation areas (DCAs).

Where to look for DCAs

Many theories about where DCAs are located have been considered, but one that has the most traction is that drones leave their hive and head out where they see depressions in the landscape. Flyways (the paths to and from DCAs, and paths that connect DCAs) often run parallel to treelines, creeks or rivers, and roadways, so these markers provide clues as to where flyways may occur.

Google Earth Pro (which is free to use) has a helpful feature that allows you to look at a map and exaggerate the terrain (under settings, bump it up to 3). This is a useful place to start. Begin looking outward from your apiary at least 200 meters (1/8 mile) away, for depressions in the landscape. Patience is helpful– it can feel like looking for a needle in a haystack.



Ten or twenty drones may indicate that you're in a flyway, but a DCA will have hundreds of drones, depending on the time of year and time of day. Use this link to see a video of a DCA I took from my UAV to see what a DCA looks like from the UAV camera: https://youtu.be/HVr6a_O8KkE

Drones tend to fly not only around the lure but also around the UAV itself. Warning: yes, this means you could find some drone goo on your UAV. A few get chopped up in the propellers and it's not pretty. I hate that, but I also hate that I kill bees everytime I inspect a hive and put it back together.

You can't fly a UAV on windy days, and drones also prefer to fly in calm weather anyway. Drones typically fly in the afternoons, while the temperature is above 64°F. The books say that drones fly from 12-4 PM, but I've seen bees at a DCA at 7:00 PM. I am assuming that's because of our warm weather. (Or maybe southern boys are more virile?) Watch your hive entrances. If you see drones coming and going, then it's worth heading out to look for DCAs.

There's no more glorious feeling than when you find a DCA! But be sure to go back and make sure they're coming back to the same site consistently. I found a bunch of drones flying around my lure at a neighbors yard one day but after going back many times I never found them there again.

Aside from surveying the area around your apiary, reach out to local UAV enthusiasts and ask them to let you know when they encounter lots of bees while flying. Many UAV pilots stumble upon DCAs without knowing what they are.

Flying a UAV responsibly and safely requires training not addressed here. Some things to consider:

- Toys are under 250 grams (8.8 ounces). Anything larger is an Aircraft according to the FAA.
- You must comply with FAA rules. The FAA Rules are here, and are changing frequently. Stay up to date. Rules for hobby pilots who are not being compensated in any way: https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/

If people who are being compensated in any way: https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot/

- While flying over private property isn't illegal, you might be met with suspicion! Be prepared to land your vehicle and educate people about what you're doing in a respectful manner. If someone asks you to stop flying over their property, honor their request. If you find a DCA and you want to come back for more flights, consider bringing the property owner a jar of honey and telling them about what you're doing.

(continued on next page)

DRONES FOR DRONES – (cont'd)

Share your data

Once you've found a DCA, share your findings by posting the location on the website <http://mapmydca.com>. I created this website with a Buzz Fund grant from the GBA for which I am very grateful. The site is free to use and has a webmap where people can pin the locations of DCAs they find, along with details about the conditions in the area and links to youtube videos from their UAV video cameras. Anyone can view the map and look at the data collected.

This is a citizen science project. My hope is that anyone with a few hours, a UAV, and some interest, can contribute data that could help us better understand drones, DCAs, and honey bee mating behavior. People often ask me how the data will help. I have a few answers to that question:

- We can use google maps terrain view to see if there are visual indicators that might be guiding drone flight.
- This method allows you to survey areas over tree canopy and over water (where the weather balloon method is only accessible in open areas). I've already found DCAs over trees that are literally next to open fields, but the bees prefer the trees, not the open areas! What we have previously thought to be a characteristic of a DCA (open area with a wind break) might not be true, and we can figure that out with more data.
- Seeing how DCAs are set up in different climates with different flora can help us better understand location choice.
- Lastly, and most exciting in my mind, is that we have no idea what tools might become easily accessible in the future, but it will be easy to use these tools to study areas with a whole map full of DCAs to survey!

*Julia Mahood is the GBA 2018 Beekeeper of the Year and past-president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc. She teaches beekeeping at Lee Arrendale Women's Prison and designed the Georgia "Save the Bee" license plate. For more of Julia's advice on using Drones for Drones, see her article in the March issue of **American Bee Journal**.*



MITE-A-THON

The 2020 North American Mite-A-Thon will run on May 2nd-17th, and August 15th-30th. This year, the Mite-A-Thon will have a spring and summer session in order to maximize data collection and distribution. The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect Varroa mite infestation data in honey bee colonies across North America, and all beekeepers can participate by testing their hives for mites, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the 2020 North American Mite-A-Thon!



Why Honey is Not the Best Food for Bees

– by Bob Binnie
Blue Ridge Honey Company

To suggest that honey is not the best food for bees to a large group of beekeepers is to risk great peril (or at least, some raised eyebrows). But it's true. Honey isn't the best food for bees. Fresh nectar is, and in this article we'll investigate why.

To start with, experienced beekeepers generally recognize that a good nectar flow will fix a lot of problems, and unless a struggling colony is compromised by such things as mites or chemicals, its overall health and vibrancy will generally improve when fresh nectar is coming in.

European foulbrood will often diminish or disappear. Chalk brood problems can decline or vanish and hygienic behavior and brood production are both decidedly increased. Seasoned beekeepers will generally report that vitality improves when colonies are stimulated to the point of producing beeswax. Examining what occurs when the bees convert this volume of nectar into honey can provide insight into why.

First, it's important to understand that the words "nectar" and "honey" are not synonymous. They are not the same thing. Honey is what the bees turn nectar into, and although honey definitely has its benefits, bees don't simply make this conversion to produce a better food but to make a more stable food.

Some of the reasons why honey is different from nectar are the changes that occur due to the activity of the enzymes present. Of interest is that these enzymes are almost entirely added by the bees.

An example of this would be the enzyme invertase, which many consider to be the most important enzyme added by the bees. It converts sucrose, the dominant sugar in nectar, into fructose and dextrose which are more soluble. When coupled with the dehydra-

tion process performed by the bees, this allows honey to become thicker and achieve a moisture level low enough to prevent fermentation. Unless destroyed by heat, invertase will usually continue its activity, even after extracting, until the percentage of sucrose reaches 5% or less.

The second, and more important enzyme for this discussion, is glucose oxidase whose activity produces gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide. The production of gluconic acid helps lower the PH in honey to an average of 3.9 which is low enough to prevent the growth of bacteria, organisms, fungi and mold. When hydrogen peroxide, which is thought to produce most of the antibacterial properties present in honey, is combined with the acidic condition produced by gluconic acid, nectar is stabilized against spoilage (fermentation) during the ripening process.

When honey becomes ripe, the activity of glucose oxidase becomes nil. So much so in fact that it usually needs to be diluted with water in order to measure its activity in a lab.

As a result of this, the production of gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide ceases. In addition, the hydrogen peroxide already present in honey degrades with time and plays an ever decreasing antibacterial role in the colony.

By contrast, when bees are processing thin, fresh nectar the amount of activity from glucose oxidase remains significant, and the ensuing production of gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide is pronounced. This produces an **antiseptic condition**, which is sustained as long as fresh nectar is coming in, and is the main reason why many brood issues disappear, colonies experience increased health and vigor, and why fresh incoming nectar is better for bees than honey.

Honey is what the bees turn nectar into, and although honey definitely has its benefits, bees don't simply make this conversion to produce a better food but to make a more stable food.



Bee Safe

Beekeeping in the time of covid-19.



For fun:
Can you name
these masked
beekeepers?

Bob Binnie

I have known Bob Binnie for over 20 years. He has been my beekeeping mentor, my friend and will still pick up the phone when I call to ask yet another question. Working with Bob in a beehive is truly an experience. His passion for bees and his gentle approach to beekeeping is refreshing. To him, it is more about keeping bees healthy and alive than chasing the dollar. His passion for bees actually started while living in a 16 x 16 foot cabin, in the backcountry of the Wrangell Mountains in Alaska. Here's how his beekeeping adventure began.

Living in Alaska has its fine points: majestic mountains, untamed wilderness, wide open spaces, unimaginable starry skies, minimal people, and crystal clear streams. However, the winters can be harsh. It's not just the extreme cold, blowing snow and howling wind that can take its toll, but also the isolation. During these days of confinement, Bob would read, and read, and then read some more. One day he came across a beekeeping article in a Mother Earth catalog and it caught his attention. He didn't realize it then, but beekeeping was about to become his life's work. A day after reading the article, he ordered Walter T. Kelley's book, *How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey*. After reading the book from cover to cover, Bob was hooked. He ordered every beekeeping book he could get his hands on. He knew instantly beekeeping was for him even before he came near a colony. It was only a matter of time before he would get his chance to become a beekeeper.

After six years of living in the wilderness of Alaska, Bob and his wife Suzette packed up and headed to Oregon where he worked for a commercial beekeeper. Beekeeping came easy to him and during the three years of employment, he absorbed every bit of knowledge he could. While working, he slowly built up his own outfit to around 500 colonies. Once confident to step out on his own, Bob began pollinating crops in California and Oregon.



– by Jennifer Berry
UGA Research Professional
& Lab Manager

Blue Ridge Honey Company



After ten years of pollinating, Bob and Suzette moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Georgia where there was a brief change of careers; but this didn't last long. Soon, Bob returned to what he loved the most, beekeeping. He quickly built up the number of colonies and decided for the first time to tinker with honey production. The west coast may have offered pollination but the north Georgia mountains offered sourwood honey. This marked the beginning of the Blue Ridge Honey Company. Since that time, the company has sold a variety of different types of honey from Tupelo to purple star thistle, gallberry and orange blossom.

Another major endeavor for Bob was getting into the nuc business. At the peak, he sold close to 2000 nucs, but as Bob puts it, "Quite frankly, selling nucs is a nerve wracking business!" He has backed off on the numbers and has moved into yet another phase of the business: a retail store.

(continued on next page)

Bob Binnie – (cont'd)

For Bob to work out of their home was fine at first, but as colonies and honey orders exploded, space became limited. Bob always dreamed about a facility on Highway 441 but never thought it would be possible. Retail land in that area, especially on 441, was cost prohibitive. He wanted a place where they could bottle and sell honey, build wooden ware, and sell beekeeping supplies. For years, this remained just a dream, until one day, the stars aligned and the perfect place (at almost the perfect price), became available. Bob and Suzette decided to take the plunge (and the debt) and make the dream a reality.

The store has been open for a few years and has become a popular stopping point for tourists and folks out for a Sunday drive. Since they sell almost anything you can purchase in a beekeeping catalog, beekeepers frequent the store too. They offer gift items as well, but every item in the store, whether it's a cup or a shirt, a candle or a bar of soap, is related to bees. The business has grown substantially.

Even during these tough times, Bob still has 20 employees working; 15 associated with honey sales and the retail store and five, including Bob, working the bees. Last year they had 2200 colonies, but they have downsized a bit with only about 1,385 this year (only!). Bob wants to focus more on selling local honey, especially sourwood.

But he also told me that there's a second frustration that comes with selling nucs and having thousands of colonies. "You just work yourself to death because good help is hard to find," he said. As he put it, "I can teach someone how to bottle honey, or build a frame, but to teach someone to be a good beekeeper can take years. And then keeping them in the trade is almost impossible." Beekeeping is an acquired skill and not for the masses. Anyone can light a smoker, put on a veil and open a hive. But think about the time it takes to learn what is actually going on in that hive. Why are the bees acting this way or that? Why did they swarm, or die, or throw a hissy fit when they were last opened?

Bob is not only a beekeeper and a businessman, he is also a member of numerous county, state and national organizations. He has served as president for several local associations as well as the Georgia Beekeepers Association. He continues to remain very active in the GBA. In 2003 he received the GBA Beekeeper of the Year Award. With all these extra activities he also finds



time to teach, mentor and speak at different clubs and beekeeping schools. Honestly, I don't know where he finds the time but he always does.

Bob has generously donated time, labor, equipment and bees over the years to the University of Georgia bee lab for numerous research projects. And I've had the opportunity to learn some amazing beekeeping "tricks of the trade" while working with him in the field. There is nothing like learning from someone who has decades of beekeeping knowledge and is a master of their craft; it's priceless!

I'm glad GBA is highlighting Bob and the Blue Ridge Honey Company in this month's newsletter. Bob's integrity when it comes to his business is admirable, and his dedication to the well-being of honey bees, the beekeeping industry, and the environment is commendable. How lucky Georgia is to have such an outstanding beekeeping operation and beekeeper in her midst. Thank you Bob for all you have done for me, for beekeepers, for your employees, for your family and of course, the bees!



The Beekeeper's Workbench:

Queen Cup Molds



– by Kathy Bourn
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

If you look for silver linings to a pandemic you can find them. One for me is that I've been able to catch up on all my bee magazine reading. Another is that I've been able to steal great ideas from all my bee magazines and do projects I wouldn't normally take the time to do.

In the February issue of *American Bee Journal*, Ian Kennard talked about how he made molds for beeswax queen cups and why he thought they were superior to plastic cups. Now, I'm not a queen breeder; as a matter of fact I've never even grafted for queen rearing. I don't need beeswax queen cups, but you have to understand, I had some silicone mold material in my basement (from other projects of course) and beeswax...so that's all it took for me to try this.

I decided to try making two different molds. First I found a couple of containers in my container container (yes, I keep a big container full of odds and ends containers). For the first mold I cut off and then ground down the post on the back of plastic queen cups. Then I hot glued them into the container leaving room around each cup. For the second mold I decided to put modeling clay around the post and then wet the clay to get it to stick to the container. I then marked how high I wanted the mold material to come up.

The silicone mold material I had is a Smooth-On product called Mold Star. I simply mix this two part product in equal portions. Before I put the queen cups in the containers I put water in to the desired level so I would know how much material I would need to mix. I sprayed in some mold release and then just slowly poured in the silicone to try to reduce the air bubbles.

After the silicone cured for a day I was able to pour in beeswax. I use an old metal watering can to pour wax. You could probably have a neater pour but the excess wax is good to soften when attaching the cups to the frame.

Now all I have to do is find someone who could use beeswax queen cups.

Editor's Note: if you have a beekeeping related project or gadget, no matter how big or small, please share it here in "The Beekeeper's Workbench" with your GBA friends. gbanewsletters@gmail.com





USING FACEBOOK TO HELP HONEY BEES

– by Kelley Campbell
Forsyth Beekeepers Club

Here are some ways to use FaceBook to help honey bees, beekeepers, and the community.

Are you using social media to save swarms from being sprayed? To guide your new beekeepers? To keep your club connected?

I have spent a ton of time trying to get the word out to the community and pest control companies that WE'RE HERE and we're HAPPY to help with unwanted honey bees! A few years ago, I put together a swarm map and heavily shared that in the community. I went door to door each February with a print out of the swarm map and a small bottle of honey to encourage pest control companies to call upon beekeepers. I also shared the swarm map through FaceBook on many community pages with just a couple clicks of the mouse. This swarm map is used as the cover picture of the club FaceBook page for the duration of swarm season. I update it each January/February with beekeeper phone numbers, and share the heck out of it. It's taken some time to spread the word, but, **it's WORKING!**

I had the chance to record a swarm capture live, and I gave a shout out to all those pest control companies that have ever called upon beekeepers. This video gave a short lesson on honey bees for the community, recognized pest control for working collaboratively, and showed our beekeepers a couple strategies to work with bees. While the video was rolling, people could comment and ask questions, and "host" a "Watch Party" from their FaceBook page, furthering the audience!

<https://www.facebook.com/kelley.campbell.94/videos/10163350698840456/>



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Beekeepers of Gilmer County

John Tagget (*pictured right*) was one of the founders of BKGK six years ago and the club thought it was time to honor him.

- Thank you, John, for your help in getting BKGK started. Your dedication to the members of the club, starting the club apiary, helping several members become Certified Beekeepers is greatly appreciated.
- Thank you for sharing your wealth of knowledge, being a friend to all and dedicating your life to honey bees.

For this and many more ways you give of yourself, the club wanted to honor you at our February meeting.

– Lloyd Vautrot, Club President



Lake Country Beekeepers

'Tis the season! How good to see bizzzy beez working hard! In this area bees are hard at work on blackberry blossoms, privet, and just popping-open chinaberry blooms as well as the generous wildflowers. Want to remind our new beekeepers, most experienced beekeepers are ready and anxious to share their knowledge and experience. Call a fellow member for help with questions! While we're all bizzzy with the season, we're looking forward to being able to meet together when COVID-19 is gone. Enjoy the season. Be safe!

Bruce Morgan helping Ben Darlington (*pictured right*) with equipment to start the season! And one of the starzzz of the shoe! (*Pictured far right*)



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

LHBA member Trey Kircher (*pictured right*) picked up his very first colony of bees last month. He was so excited! He wanted to make sure that the bees knew he was gonna take care of them, so he made sure that he wore his Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc. shirt and GBA hat when he picked them up. He later moved them into the hive he painted.



(continued on next page)



Club News

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– (cont'd)

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

Oglethorpe County Bee Club conducted their monthly meeting on April 20th via teleconference using Zoom. Ron Putman, a Georgia Certified Beekeeper, presented a Power-Point presentation called "Common Mistakes of Beginning Beekeepers." Ron outlined the common mistakes as: limited beekeeping knowledge, starting with only one colony or a package, having no mentor, relying on YouTube, buying too

much or not enough beekeeping supplies, not feeding bees when necessary, and inspecting hives too often or not often enough. All beekeepers should know basic honey bee biology and keep good records on their hives. The meeting concluded with questions from members. Our club would like to thank Linda Tillman for participating in our meeting and GBA for making possible our Zoom meeting.

West Georgia Beekeepers

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association has been honoring the shelter in place order. We have postponed many events. As of today the club will have their annual picnic on May 30, 2020 at Union Grove Christian Douglasville, Georgia. The picnic is for members only. Depending on the outcome of our state reopening we will plan our month-

ly events at a later date. Normally we meet every fourth Monday of the month at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, Ga 30134. The mentoring session starts at 6:30 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00 pm. Continue to practice social distancing and everyone stay safe. Bee safe.



We'll Bee Together. . . again soon.



It's Spring: The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, the bees are flying, and beekeepers are keeping on. Stay safe, take care!

Club Meetings*

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm			Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm			pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			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			tawnalow@me.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			marymom51@gmail.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm			tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm			cartersvillebeekeepers-guild@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			Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm			clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm			CEBA.OIWC@gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flatshoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm			eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 6:45pm			danielreidlong@gmail.com	Clarke
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebug123@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, May 21	UGA Research on Hive Pests and Diseases	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock

*Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.

(continued on next page)

Club Meetings*

– (cont'd)

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			lakehartwellbeekeepersas- soc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeep- ers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			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			julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream. net	Union, Townns, Fannin
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			officers@negabeekeeping. com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			kaizen.thornberry@gmail. com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			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 High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm			polkcountybeekeepers@ gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			potatocreekbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			info@sowegabeekeepers. org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm			maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm			threecountybees@gmail. com	Bleckley, Pulaski, Dodge
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			info@tricitybeekeep- ers.net	Banks
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			tristatebeekeepers1@ gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm			neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm			twinriversbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	*Picnic, Saturday, May 30	Members only. Union Grove Christian Douglasville, Georgia.	2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

***Please note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.



Spilling *The* Honey

JUNE 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As beekeepers we are each navigating the coronavirus and what it has changed in our lives. As an organization for beekeepers, GBA is also trying to navigate the changes of the coronavirus. At a GBA Board Meeting at the end of May, the GBA straw vote was 22-4 not to have an in-person meeting.

In the interest of the safety of our members, since we don't know what the fall is going to look like. For planning purposes, we have had to make the difficult decision not to have an in-person conference.

We are excited to offer a **VIRTUAL GBA CONFERENCE**. The conference committee has been working creatively to figure out how to provide a conference for us to bring the beekeeping education to our members that is our mission. And it will be in September on September 25 and 26. We will provide a bee conference adventure to you virtually.

The conference committee met and the energy flying through the Zoom meeting was palpable. People continued to send me good ideas all through the next day. We are going to have fun and connect with each other as well as we can virtually. There are even ideas about how to use smaller Zoom breakout rooms as places to visit with friends.

I feel a little like Chandler in the current ad for some new subscription service on TV. He says, "I don't have any idea what is going on, but I'M EXCITED!" I do know a lot of what is going on because I'm helping to plan it, and I know you'll learn something and have a good time. Many bee clubs are canceling their annual meetings, but not us, not GBA.

We are going to have a virtual bee party!

Bee well,

Linda





FALL MEETING UPDATE



**KEEP
CALM
AND
ZOOM
ON**

**The GBA Fall Meeting will be held
September 25 and 26 as scheduled!**

**However, due to the pandemic the location has been
changed from Gainesville to your living room.**

**We are thrilled that all of our speakers are available to
speak via Zoom! The meeting committee is working hard to
bring you the best virtual experience possible.**

**Keep reading the newsletter each month to find out how to
enter a virtual honey show and more!**

**Featuring: CINDY BEE, JAMIE ELLIS, DAVE TARPY,
KEITH DELAPLANE *and* VIRGINIA WEBB**

Introducing: **THE MURDER HORNET**



Murder Hornets have beekeepers concerned.

Most of you have probably heard or read about the newest threat to invade our Western shores, the Asian giant hornet or “murder” hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*. A flurry of press coverage has created a surge of interest in this hornet, which has many beekeepers worried. The murder hornet was discovered and verified last year in the northwest corner of Washington state and Vancouver, Canada, but to date, is not present in Georgia.

The Asian giant hornet is a “true” hornet and the world’s largest, ranging in size from 1.5 to slightly over 2 inches long (38-50mm). The stinger is nearly ¼-inch long and stings are extremely painful. Each year in Japan, 30-50 people die from being stung by these hornets. The venom is not the most lethal among bees and wasps, but due to the insect’s large size, the dose is more than any other stinging insect Americans typically encounter. Human sting deaths are biased toward individuals who are prone to anaphylactic reactions or to individuals who receive large numbers of stings. One or a few stings from a Asian giant hornet should not be life-threatening to an average individual.

The Asian giant hornet is not necessarily aggressive towards humans, livestock or pets but will sting if



– by *Jennifer Berry*
UGA Honey Bee Lab

provoked. However, this giant killer can inflict a devastating blow to honey bee colonies, with several hornets annihilating 30,000 bees within a few hours. There are three phases to an Asian giant hornet attacking a honey bee colony. The first is the hunting phase where individual hornets will capture bees at the entrance of the colony, cut off their heads, and form a “meat ball” from the thorax. They then return to their nest to feed their young this protein-rich meal.

The second phase is the slaughter phase. Hornets will mark a particular colony with a pheromone to alert



their sisters of the imminent attack. Then numerous hornets will descend upon the colony, killing all of the workers by ripping their heads off, and dumping their bodies onto the ground below. Once the colony is void of bees, the hornets behave as if this hive is now their own, becoming extremely aggressive to anyone or anything coming near.

The third is the occupation phase where the hornets enter the hive, collect pupae and larvae and then return to their own nest to feed their carnivorous young. The aftermath of an attack will be piles of decapitated or ripped apart bees in front of a colony. The visible key to an Asian giant hornet attack is “decapitated” or “ripped apart” bees, and not just a pile of intact dead bees, which could be the result of pesticides, starvation or something else.

This is the hornet that incites the famous bee defensive response of “cooking” hornets to death. The bees grab an invading hornet, pile around it and raise their thoracic temperatures to the critical temperature that is lethal to wasps but tolerable to bees. Unfortunately, American honey bees, of European not Asiatic descent, do not have this behavior.

BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

– by Virginia Webb

Our Georgia Beekeepers Association State Symbol



The GBA has one of the most recognizable symbols in the Union. It centers on a queen bee hovering over the state with GBA's name and founding date surrounding it. But the logo did not start out with this design.

While combing through old GBA files, I found a few other designs from the past. I just love the way it has evolved.



From 1964 to 1965, this logo is the earliest I can find for the GBA. It incorporates the three letters.



This is the first real seal which the GBA used in 1971.



In 1976, this design was simpler and it included an outline of the state of Georgia beneath the queen bee.



For only 1 year, I found this logo being used in our 1977 Newsletter as the GBA worked with our Georgia State Legislature to make the honey bee our state insect.

The Beekeeper's Workbench:



Horizontal Hives

– by Rowland Loewen
Harrison, Ga.
(1st year beekeeper)

I decided to make a few long Langstroth hives (or horizontal hives). In this one the frames can go either direction. You can also use either Langstroth frames or top bars (or even both at the same time). It features a compartment at the far end that can be

partitioned off and used for making splits or excluding the queen or to adjust the size of the hive. There is also room for a frame feeder. The floor opens and drops down on hinges for cleaning.



Virginia Webb

– by Julia Mahood
Past President
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

In 2004 I took a beekeeping course at the John C. Campbell Folk School nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains in Brasstown, NC taught by Virginia Webb. I came home and told my husband and kids that Mrs. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus books taught my beekeeping class – her energy and enthusiasm for all things honey bee were infectious, and I have been hooked on bees ever since.

Virginia Stephens Webb was born with beekeeping in her blood. A third generation beekeeper, she learned the craft at the side of her father, Joseph Stephens, who still keeps bees at the family home in Greenville, Tennessee. Virginia recalls apiary visits with her father, mesmerized by his gentle hand; he could go through an entire hive without killing a single bee. Technically he was a hobbyist beekeeper—a hobbyist with 75 hives and a two-frame extractor! Virginia learned from her father that if you're going to do something, go all the way. It's no surprise that Virginia became the beekeeping force that she is today.



Virginia at her self-serve honey stand at her home in Clarkesville, GA.



Virginia with a jar (and a medal) of the World's Best Honey. (image: The Greeneville Sun, Oct. 2009)

As a young woman, Virginia was the Tennessee State Honey Queen. It was a year of traveling the state educating people about honey bees and their value in agriculture. She judged over 20 honey shows at fairs around the state that year, a prelude for her future as an internationally renowned honey judge. Her year as Honey Queen was a great introduction for a life of public speaking and advocacy for beekeeping.

Virginia studied accounting at East Tennessee State University and then worked in banking in Atlanta. She was known as the Buckhead Beekeeper during those years, selling honey from her Wieuca Road home. When she became president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association in 1987, the club was struggling with just nine members. She remembers convincing the famous Alfred Dietz to come to Atlanta and speak for free, getting the event announced in the AJC, and having over 50 beekeepers show up for the meeting. Those 50 folks joined the club and MABA was once again flourishing.



(continued on next page)

Virginia Webb – (cont'd)



Virginia preparing cut comb honey. (Image: Jonathan Phillips, AJC, March 2012)

On the state level, Virginia became the first female president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association in 1997. It wasn't easy for some of the good ol' boys to accept, but by doing so she paved the way for many women in beekeeping. While GBA president, she led the charge to create the first GBA website, and started a legislative committee to get funding for a new building at the UGA bee lab which was built in 2000. She was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 1993.

Virginia met Carl Webb in 1996 at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute. The next year they began dating and were married in 1998. Since then Virginia has been a full time commercial beekeeper in Habersham County. In 2007 she and Carl became charter members of the Russian Bee Breeders Association and have been breeding and selling Varroa tolerant Russian bees ever since.

Virginia's life as a speaker, honey judge, and bee advocate seems to know no bounds. She has served on countless boards literally around the world—from Apimondia to the American Beekeeping Federation to many Georgia organizations. She's the only person in the US to hold Master Beekeeper certification from three entities – Georgia, EAS, and Florida. (She's working on South Carolina now, just for kicks.)

She's trained beekeepers from China, Israel, Egypt, the Caribbean, and France, as well as Peace Corps volunteers. Her expertise as a honey judge is unparalleled. Her YouTube videos on preparing entries for honey shows have been viewed tens of thousands of times.

Virginia's passion for community service isn't limited to the beekeeping world. She's a tireless worker for the less fortunate, volunteering at the local food bank, Habitat for Humanity, and for many other local charities, prisons, and church programs.

In 2016 I started a beekeeping class at Lee Arrendale State Prison and Virginia volunteered to teach with me that first year. She made it clear that it was just for the season, but we are now in our fifth year. Virginia just can't stay away from the things she is most passionate about: honey bees, education, and helping those in need. Virginia's sourwood honey has won Best Hon-



Virginia and Julia teach beekeeping together at Lee Arrendale State Prison.

ey in the World at Apimondia, the world beekeeping conference – four times! However, when you ask her what accomplishment she is most proud of, she will tell you that it's not her awards and accolades, but what is most rewarding to her is teaching children about honey bees and their value in our food supply. She truly is a Legend in Georgia Beekeeping.

THE SHOW WILL GO ON

Just as the 100th Anniversary Fall Conference is marching forward despite the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fall Honey and Beeswax Show will march on as well! This year the GBA will be holding its first ever "virtual" honey show! As you might imagine, there are a litany of issues, obstacles, and problems to address and resolve. Some of those are logistical, some ethical, but none are insurmountable. Rest assured, the GBA Honey Show Committee and our Welsh Honey Judges are more than equal to this task. We are already working on practical and resourceful adjustments to the traditional Honey Show rules to facilitate easy participation and maintain the integrity of the competition. Watch for the new rules on the GBA website in the coming weeks.

I, my fellow Committee members, and my fellow Welsh Honey Judges are excited about this unique opportunity. This will be a honey show like none other before. Tell your fellow beekeepers back home, in your local clubs, and all around the state – **the 2020 GBA Fall Honey and Beeswax Show will go on!**

– by Brutz English
GBA Honey Show Committee Chair
Sr. Welsh Honey Judge



Honey Bee Trivia (or Bee-via)

You may not know the chemical composition of royal jelly or the function of the fat body but you can impress your beekeeping peers with this honey bee trivia.

Question:

What is the significance of the beehive in Utah?

Answer:

The beehive symbolizes industry, which is the state's motto. Before the state of Utah, the provisional government of the State of Deseret also had the beehive as its emblem. Deseret was a state, proposed in 1849 and never recognized, which would have included most of Utah and Nevada and parts of other states. Deseret means honey bee in the Book of Mormon.



The Utah State flag

HONEYDEW HONEY

[Excerpt from *Honeydew: A Mixed Blessing* by Ben Sallmann. Bee Informed Partnership <https://beeinformed.org>]

When Americans think of honey, most of us assume it comes from floral sources—basically bees collect flower nectar, add enzymes, and evaporate moisture to produce the finished product. However, I was recently talking to a friend who grew up near the Black Forest in Germany, and he told me as a child that his mother would give him “forest honey,” which was thicker and had a much richer taste than anything he had seen in American supermarkets. Also known as honeydew honey, the source is not floral but actually from the waste products of a number of sap-sucking insects including aphids, leafhoppers, and psyllids. Mealybugs and scale insects are examples of psyllids and are known by gardeners as serious and pesky plant pests.

Although it may be off-putting to think of eating insect excrement, honeydew honey is prized in parts of Europe and New Zealand and often fetches higher prices than floral honey. It is rich in mineral content, amino acids, and may have stronger antibacterial properties. When a psyllid insect or aphid ingests the plants sap, it digests the small amount of protein present and expels the rest of the water, sugars, tannins and other indigestible material as honeydew. If you have ever parked your car under a tree and found it covered in a sticky substance the next morning, chances are the tree is infested with sap-sucking psyllids or aphids. For many other insects including ants, wasps, and bees, this is a valuable food source.

Sometimes the flow of honeydew is so heavy that the bees plug out the brood boxes, leaving no room for the queen to lay. In this case, one strategy is to remove frames of honey and replace with foundation. This causes the colony to consume more honey and draw out the wax, which is helpful all around because the queen is provided with a place to lay and nice clean wax is produced quickly.

Another problem with honeydew is that bees are not collecting any pollen with it as they do when collecting flower

nectar. This can result in a protein deficiency, so feeding supplemental pollen patties is usually recommended when the bees are in a honeydew flow, usually in the fall when there are fewer floral sources and the bees have nothing else to forage on.



Eucalyptus with a heavy infestation of red gum lerp psyllid



Sugary shell of this insect

Overall, honeydew is a benefit to bees and beekeepers, and the drawbacks can be minimized by good beekeeping. The trickier issue is preventing bees from getting caught in the crossfire between honeydew-producing insects and people trying to get rid of them.



zoom IS THE ANSWER. TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

If you haven't used Zoom for your meetings, try it for your next club event. It's easy and keeps your members connected. These days are certainly isolating times, but if you have your video on and allow your club members to see you, it's an opportunity to connect and enjoy each other as you learn from the program of the club.

From the last few days of March until the end of May at least thirteen bee clubs have used our Zoom account. Zoom has been used for:

- 1. General discussion meetings
- 2. Speaker meetings
- 3. Meeting with a video speaker from the GBA recorded library
- 4. Club board meetings
- 5. Virtual hive inspections
- 6. Virtual honey harvesting



As far as I know, clubs have not yet broken up into discussion groups in Zoom "rooms" but I look forward to that being offered as well.

We are increasing our GBA video library. If your club is without a speaker and you'd like one, consider using one of our videos. The use of the video is free to the club as a gift from GBA. The speakers are really good and people you might like to hear. [Here's a link to the list of videos currently available and more are added each week.](#)

Consider using our Zoom accounts – they are free for the asking. All that we require is that the club officers – the VP, the secretary and the treasurer – be members of GBA. So get in touch and [Gina](#) or [Linda](#) will be glad to schedule your time in our Zoom account.

PROMOTIONAL HONEY BEE PLATE

– by *Katie Goodman*
Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.



Stephens County Tag Office was the first county in Georgia to receive their promotional GBA "Save the Honey Bee" license plate to decorate their office walls! Only 158 more counties to go.

GBA ELECTIONS - THIS SEPTEMBER

Annual elections for officers and director positions will be held at the September meeting of GBA. Would you like to run for president or vice-president? Or would you like to serve on the Board of Directors? The president and vice-president positions are up for election this year as well as three director seats.

We are seeking qualified candidates to run for each of these positions. [A complete list of the various officers and directors as well as their respective duties can be found here.](#) Please submit your nominations by June 15th so we can publicize your wish to run in the newsletter and so we can print your name on the paper ballot.

Because we are going to have a virtual conference, you will vote when you complete your registration form so we need the list completed sooner than later.

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

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

The nominating committee is currently chaired by [Bobby Chaisson](#).

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

The GBA could not be what it is or what it has the potential to become without you! Thank you for your support of and commitment to the GBA. We look forward to seeing you at our VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE on September 25 and 26.

Sincerely,
The GBA Elections Committee



IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE THE **2020** 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: Chair: Bobby Chaisson; Kelley Campbell, Steve Nofs, and Andy Marcus.

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 2020 will be made at the GBA Fall Conference.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Lake Country Beekeepers

Since COVID-19 is going to keep us from meeting again in May and June, founding member and past president of LCBA, Mary Lacksen, recently sent our members a guide for new beekeepers. It is also a good planning reminder for more experienced members.

She addressed safety reminders, honey harvesting, varroa treatment, the Georgia Grown program and passed on the May *Spilling the Honey*.



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Hive Inspections Go Virtual

For new beekeepers, the opportunity to inspect a colony with an experienced beekeeper can offer valuable insights into the mysterious inner workings of the hive. COVID-19 and the realities of social distancing, unfortunately, have interrupted Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's regularly scheduled, popular hive inspection programs. Thankfully, MABA's indefatigable Linda Tillman has found a way to soldier on, taking her inspections online via Zoom. Tillman inspects a colony in advance, making a video recording of her process and observations as she goes. During subsequent scheduled Zoom meetings, she narrates her footage and answers live and chat questions about what meeting attendees are seeing, offering tips that beginners and more advanced beekeepers alike can use to improve their own inspections. The time and energy Tillman puts into making these inspection videos and sharing them with MABA members is considerable and reflects her enormous dedication to helping new beekeepers learn the ins and outs of the honeybees' complicated world.



MABA Meets Via Zoom in May and June

Like so many other organizations in this time of social distancing, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association president Gail Dean led the group's May meeting online via Zoom. The speaker was MABA's own Tom Rearick. His talk, titled "Super Navigators: How Honey Bees Find Their Way Home," introduced attendees to how honey bees, unlike a new-fangled Tesla automobile, can navigate over miles of terrain to find their way home without the benefit of maps or GPS. Rearick's engaging presentation touched on the differences between orientation and foraging flights, how and what honey bees see, and the many strategies they employ for fixing locations within the landscape in order to return to them, even over distances of up to seven miles. He then discussed how this understanding can be applied practically by beekeepers when it comes time to move hives, or in order to prevent drift among multiple colonies in close proximity. Some 60 MABA members logged on to Zoom to view the

presentation and participate in a question and answer session that followed. Rearick is a Master Beekeeper who served on the MABA board for many years, and his enthusiasm for all things honey bee was evident! He is currently writing a book titled "Apis Intelligence."

A brief mentoring session led by Julia Mahood preceded the regular meeting. As the weather warms in the Atlanta area and the nectar flow tapers off, advice was offered to new beekeepers on topics including honey harvesting, supering, and feeding and watering bees during the summer months.

June's MABA meeting (scheduled for 6/16/20, 7 p.m.) will likewise be held via Zoom. In what promises to be another fascinating presentation, Dr. Lewis Bartlett will be speaking on the topic of "Problems and Promises of Darwinian Beekeeping."

West Georgia Beekeepers

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association monthly meetings and outside activities have been postponed until further notice as we continue to stay safe during this time. All members are encouraged to contact other members for beekeeping suggestions and recommendations. We will update everyone when we are allowed to continue our monthly meetings. Everyone please stay safe.



Club Meetings*

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	UGA Research Center, 8167 Hwy 178, Lyons, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm			Carmen_K9@yahoo.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office, 298 Academy Ave, Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Senior Center, 400 Stegall Dr, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm			pickensbeekeepers@gmail.com	Pickens
Augusta Beekeeping	CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Augustabeekeeping@gmail.com	Richmond
Bartow County Beekeepers	Olin Tatum Agricultural Bldg, 320 W Cherokee Ave, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			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			tawnalow@me.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Cntr, 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			marymom51@gmail.com	Gilmer
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm			tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthit Ferry Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120	3rd Wednesday, 7:45pm			cartersvillebeekeepers-guild@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			Jim Ellis	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agri Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			sposey@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office, 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00pm			clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm			CEBA.OIWC@gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta County Beekeepers	Coweta Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flatshoals Rd, Conyers, GA 30013	4th Tuesday, 7:00pm			eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Bldg, Rm 120, Athens, GA 30602 *Use directions on website*	1st Monday, 6:45pm			danielreidlong@gmail.com	Clarke
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North Georgia Cumming Campus- 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			baileysbees@gmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	UGA Extension Building, 801 Main Street (old courthouse), Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebug123@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	Thursday, June 18	Using products from the hive	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock

*Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.

(continued on next page)

Club Meetings*

– (cont'd)

Is your club's information wrong or missing? Please fill out this form to let us know. 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	Location	Schedule	Date	Speaker & Topic	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			lakehartwellbeekeepers- soc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeep- ers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			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, June 16 (via Zoom)	Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Promises and Problems of Darwinian Beekeeping	julia@mahoodstudio.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus, 338 Epps Mtn Ln Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream. net	Union, Townns, Fannin
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham Agri. Cntr 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			officers@negabeekeeping. com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center, 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			kaizen.thornberry@gmail. com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordham's Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 US-80, Statesboro GA 30461	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Bldg, 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			joecontibeas@aol.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church, 227 Legion Rd Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			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 High School 167 Frank Lott Drive Cedartown, GA 30125	2nd Thursday, 7pm			polkcountybeekeepers@ gmail.com	Polk
Potato Creek Beekeepers	Spalding County Extension Office, 835 Memorial Dr, Griffin, GA 30223	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			potatocreekbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Spalding
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Educa- tion Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm			info@sowegabeekeepers. org	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm			maryc7@aol.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 GA Hwy 126 Cochran GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7:00pm			threecountybees@gmail. com	Bleckley, Pulaski, Dodge
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			info@tricitybeekeep- ers.net	Banks
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm			tristatebeekeepers1@ gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Agriculture Building, 21 Vulcan Materials Rd, Lagrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm			neatermyer@aol.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers	Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm			twinriversbeekeepers@ gmail.com	Ware
Walton County Beekeepers	Center Hill Baptist Church 6372 GA-20 Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm			waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Hall, Post 145 6449 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm			2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

***Please note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.



Spilling *The* Honey

JULY 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bee-ing is challenging in this time of the coronavirus. As the time has gone on, so many of us are wanting to get back to normal and just as that urge hits more of a fever pitch, the cases are rising rapidly in Georgia. Such a dilemma is created. I miss being with my bee friends at our local club meetings and I miss seeing the planning committee for the Fall Conference in person, and on and on, like most of you.

The good news is that many clubs are using Zoom as a way of connecting. Some clubs who are trying outdoor meetings in July are having a Zoom connection at the same time so that more cautious or more vulnerable members can participate without being there in person. This idea was spearheaded by Jonathan Hayes who is president of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers and manages the third of our three Zoom accounts.

My encouragement to each of you is to stay conscious of taking care of yourself in a safe way. Encourage your club to meet by Zoom if they haven't. It is, as my granddaughter says, "Easy, peasy." Gina, Jonathan or I start every meeting and make sure that the functions are all working well. We help the speaker get started if you have one and help people find the chat function. We do all the hard stuff for you.

We are planning a great Virtual Fall Conference for September 25 and 26. All of the details are not yet ironed out (like how we will connect you with the vendors and whether we will record the talks ahead of time or not, etc.) One fabulous detail is worked out quite professionally and beautifully and that is the plan for a virtual honey show. (See article later in the newsletter). We will also be hosting a National Black Jar Contest for the best honey in the country with a \$1000 prize. The entry fee is only \$5 per jar and you can enter numerous times if you have many different honey flavors, all of which you think might win.

The conference itself will be \$15 to register. That fee is the same for every category, for members and nonmembers. If you have a family membership, you will only be charged one \$15 fee. [Registration opened on July 1](#). With that registration, you can also at no additional charge enter the GBA fall honey show, which is comprised of entries of nine classes of honey and wax.

We are open to your ideas - what will make a virtual meeting fun for you? A contest for the best virtual background? Brutz has a scary one with Goliath-sized bees flying around his head! A collection of bee jokes running in the breaks? A Zoom room where clubs can showcase a five minute video and you can watch something other than speakers for a break?

Send any ideas for making a Zoom conference fun to [me](#) or to [Gina](#). If we use your idea, we'll give you a free registration to the conference!

Bee well,

Linda



Holding Virtual Hive Inspections

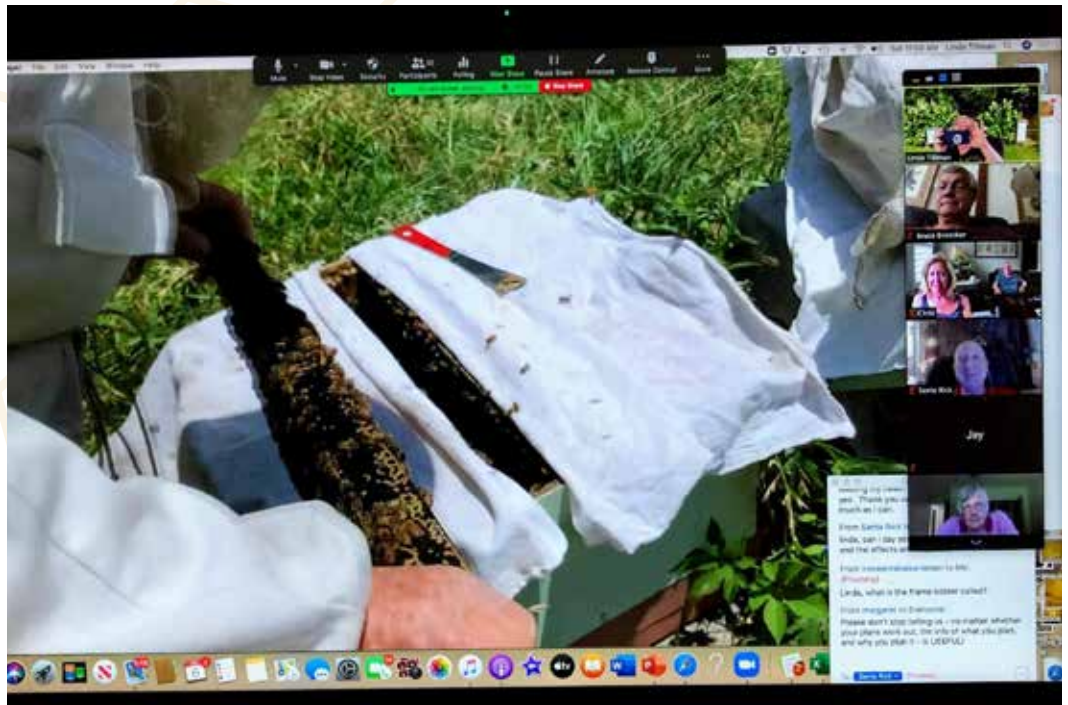
– by Linda Tillman
President, GBA

Every year MABA has a huge short course with typical attendance of over 100 people. Also typically after the short course, MABA has a large hive inspection program with six locations and six inspectors who provide in-person hive inspection experiences for ten to twelve people at a time. Each inspector presents numerous inspections over the course of bee season.

The hive inspection program in 2020 had barely begun in March when the country closed down and COVID made in-person gatherings a potentially disease-spreading experience. So we closed down the hive inspection program.

As chair of the MABA hive inspection program this year, I decided to try to present hive inspections on Zoom. The first challenge was to film myself by myself while managing beehives at the same time. Inevitably in the March winds, it was hard to hear my voice because of the gusts of wind over the iPhone mic. On days when the wind wasn't blowing, the guy next door to the community garden where the hives are located was weed whacking. One day I found Georgia Power employees, there to cut the grass, taking selfies in front of the beehives (where they did NOT cut the grass!). I bought a good tripod from Amazon and now I have a good lavalier wireless mic (thanks to advice from Jonathan Hayes) and the filming goes much better.

For the first virtual inspection at the end of March, I invited the ten people who had signed up for in-person that weekend to join me on Zoom. Only two of the ten who had signed up came, but one was a Santa Claus impersonator and the other was a nine year old boy, so you can imagine how much fun we had.



Hive inspection video being watched by Zoom attendees.

Not daunted by the low turnout, I offered a second virtual inspection the next weekend and the next and the next. The numbers of attendees grew each time. I have now hosted eleven inspections that are typically attended by thirty to fifty people. Over the course of these eleven, more than ninety different people have come to my virtual inspections and at least forty of those have come more than once.

In the Zoom meeting, I share my screen and show the video, stopping when needed to explain or answer questions. At the end we have a general discussion of any questions anyone has. I upload all of the inspection videos to [YouTube](#) and publish them [on my blog](#) so they can be watched by others.

I think these virtual inspections have done a lot to fill the gap of being able to go into a hive with a mentor, and I encourage others of you to try doing this for your bee clubs. It's also fun to see each other's faces and to just talk bees with each other. I'm a Zoom fan and will continue these virtual inspections as long as need be with the COVID crisis.



LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

Jesse McCurdy

– by Emily Health
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Jesse McCurdy, known in middle Georgia as “The Bee Man,” got his first hive at the age of 10. He was hooked and at 88 he is still keeping bees. After moving to Perry in the 1960s, he started his business, Ambrosia Apiaries, through which he sells honey, offers pollinating services and displays at local farm markets and businesses.



Jesse with the 1st Georgia National Fair T-shirt

Jesse is and has been a mentor to literally hundreds of beekeepers – new and seasoned. He is always willing to answer questions and never makes one feel as if their question is insignificant. He has a passion for getting young children and teens involved in beekeeping. At the Georgia National Fair, he is often seen talking to children as they watch the bees in his observation hive. Jesse has been a part of the Georgia National Fair for the past 30 years – each year of the fair since it started.

In 1992, he was awarded the Beekeeper of the Year by the Georgia Beekeepers Association. In 1996 Jesse was given an award for his “Honey Bee Story” by the Georgia National Fair and Agricenter. He is pictured with former president Jimmy Carter who made a visit to his display. Dr. Keith Delaplane painted a picture titled *Jesse McCurdy’s Bee Hives* near Cleveland, GA. This painting was the cover of the June 1997 edition of *American Bee Journal*. On the event of Jesse’s 85th birthday, the painting was presented to him.



Jesse’s display at the Georgia National Fair with former President Jimmy Carter.

Jesse was a founding member of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association and was awarded the 1st Annual Jesse McCurdy Beekeeper of the Year Award in 2014. The association continues to award this each year in his honor. In 2019 Jesse was awarded Lifetime Membership in the Georgia Beekeepers Association. It is difficult to express the impact Jesse McCurdy has had on beekeeping in Georgia. He is a wealth of knowledge and a cog in the multifaceted aspect of beekeeping throughout the state. Jesse McCurdy a kind, gentle and patient man...a true legend in Georgia Beekeeping.



Jesse, the mentor.

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER

– by Kelley Campbell
Forsyth Beekeepers Club

I see the nectar flow as the beekeeper's honeymoon...resources are plentiful, weather is enjoyable, everyone gets along, the best is yet to come! Brace yourself - nectar flow is over, it's getting hot and dry, and our bees are feeling stressed. We are approaching the dog days of summer...aka the dearth. Your bees aren't the sweet little angels you started off with. They are becoming brats, and it'll get worse before it gets better! They will be a little testy, so don't be surprised if you get popped a time or two during inspections, or when you try to mow the grass near them. In



March and April, I can weed eat in a sundress, feeling like Snow White, with cute fuzzy bees kindly landing on my shoulders...in July and August, I wear a veil for yard work...and sometimes a full suit, and those 'little angels' head butt me and seem to find the most annoying places to sting me anyway.

Maintain your water sources through the fall. Bees use water inside the hive daily for many things, including evaporative cooling (think of those mister fans in a greenhouse) so that they don't overheat. I have received a TON of concerns about water...if you're not experiencing an issue with pool owning neighbors yet, you may very soon. I'm a huge advocate of a never ending supply of water for each hive via boardman feeders. I also have a few community water sources in shaded and sunny areas of my yard.

Overwintered colonies may have honey to pull. Be mindful of how much you pull – the reliable nectar flow is over...the bees will not replace all you take in time for winter. Jennifer Berry, of the UGA Bee lab, suggests for every one frame of bees you have, leave one and a half frames of honey. (10 frame deep requires 15 frames of capped honey)

Personal note – I do not have much honey this year at all, so I may be skipping the chore. (This is concerning to me...many beekeepers in north GA seem to be in this same predicament...if you have honey to sell, consider increasing your price!)

If you are going to treat your bees for Varroa, it's nearly time to do mite counts and think about which treatment you will use. Be aware many suppliers are working with skeleton staff, and shipping from large suppliers has been delayed. Plan ahead and get what you need soon. Determine which Varroa treatment(s) you will use. I've found page 12-20 of the [Honey Bee Health Coalition TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT](#) to be very inclusive and informative. As mentioned last month, this is a fabulous website to check into [Varroa Management Decision Tool](#).

Honey bees are the only insects that store away nectar (honey) for the winter...which means other insects will find your hives highly desirable now. Expect yellow jackets, wasps, and other honey bees to rob vulnerable colonies. To prevent robbing, keep strong colonies and mind your entrance size. Robber screens are helpful, as well. Should you find your hive(s) being robbed, a wet sheet thrown over the hive for up to a day tends to diffuse the smells and calm the frenzy. If you know it's your bees in your apiary doing the robbing, you can pop open all the lids of all the hives in the yard, making robbers want to return to their colony and defend it.

And don't forget to update your "bloom calendar". This will come in handy next year as you plan for supering, pulling honey, feeding, etc.

This, too, shall pass.



The New Bees on the Block

– by Joy Marino and Gary Zrebiec
Fort Gaines, Georgia

So we are newbees this year and even though we read MANY books and watched TONS of videos while waiting the three months to go pick up our girls, the hiving of our first package didn't go very well.

The queen cage fell into the box of bees and it was at least 90 degrees and humid out, but we still wanted to free the girls, especially after the four hour round trip we took for them. So, I dumped most of them into the hive so we could reach in and get her out.

THEN, my nitrile gloves ripped and the marshmallow I had to plug in to the hole, stuck to my gloves, since it was HOT out. So with sticky fingers, I had difficulty bending the nails to hang her cage in the middle of the hive. And then, I dropped one and couldn't find it. It was chaos.

Of course, the chaos would not be complete without my struggling with the bucket of sugar water and dumping it into the feeder like I was putting out a forest fire.



But, there were very few casualties (many of which were in the box we got them in) and we finally got it all worked out. Thankfully, since then, my boyfriend got his full suit (he is allergic to “bee” stings...hornets, wasps, etc.), so now he can help me with the girls and we are getting the hang of inspections. Queen Sofia has been laying eggs and all seems to be going well.

We referenced many sources, but our primary source has been [Beekeeping for Dummies](#), in case you wonder where we were instructed to do certain things.

Oh and by the way, we are transplants from New Jersey, just moved here in January. So, EVERYTHING has been quite the experience. But, we LOVE it.



BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

GEORGIA BEEKEEPER *of the* YEAR

In 1975 the Annual Convention of the Georgia Beekeepers Assoc. was held at the Rural Development Center in Tifton, Georgia on November 3. At the previous meeting it was decided that each year GBA would honor a beekeeper with the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year award. The first award went to Joe G. Rossman of Moultrie.

Although I could not find the listing of the nomination process, it does appear these individuals who first received this award were highly respected and supporters of the beekeeping industry.

A few of the recipients included:

1975 Joe G. Rossman, Moultrie, GA

1976 A.L. Denmark, Homerville, GA

1978 Lee Hubbard



As a past recipient of this award, it is one that I truly treasure and was honored to receive in 1993.

– by Virginia Stephens Webb

Open Letter to the GBA Team,

I received an email today from the SCBA announcing the cancellation of their summer conference. So it was extremely positive to read of the virtual GBA conference the same day in *Spilling the Honey!*

Congratulations and thank you. We are in difficult times and the work of the GBA team to make zoom available to local clubs for meetings this year along with the fall virtual meeting hold up our organization up as a role model for beekeeping associations in the south east.

Thanks Again,
Tom Davenport

The Beekeeper's Workbench:

Where to Rest Those Frames

Here's just a little something I built today

Regular frame perches don't fit on my long Lang so I started thinking about what I'd like in a perch. These have flush mount brackets on the back of each and the corresponding brackets spaced appropriately on the back of the hive. Four mounted on the hive allow for three different positions for the frames to hang. They store easily in a tool box or in the center space of the long Lang.

Dan Long
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

The cheap beekeeper's frame rest

When I was looking to build a frame rest that I could use for all my different hive styles I headed to the second floor of my garden building. That's where I keep all the stuff I collect that I might use for something someday. What I found was some old shelf brackets that I could attach to my bee buggy. I just clip the brackets on and the frame rest will accommodate all frame sizes and my top bars.

Kathy Bourn
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association



New Honey Season in the Mountains – **SAME BIG CONCERNS**

– by Bob Grant
Journeyman Beekeeper

I first started beekeeping back in 2008 to help our apple and blueberry orchard along. My first bees were Carniolan. Our apiaries are in the northeast corner of Georgia, where valleys tend to be steep and “U” shaped with an elevation of 2000 feet. What this means to a bee is that sunlight can be limited, and winter can be confusing. Winter night temperatures are often in the 20s while daytime temperatures are in the 50s. Winter can last well into April. Then there is the fact that this region is a rainforest which adds to the “fun” of beekeeping.



Grant apiary

After a couple of years, I started buying packaged Italian bees, which were easy to install with a predictable rate of expansion. This approach worked well for catching the first of our two flows (wildflower and sourwood.) Over time I learned that, while this was an easy way to expand my number of hives, it came with a higher price than the expected annual losses that many mountain beekeepers experience. Therefore, if I wanted to maintain a micro-honey business, I had to find a more sustainable approach which meant a return to Carniolans.

Turning Creek is the only beekeeping enterprise for several counties around Rabun County that is certified all-natural. Therefore, we can only use natural methods for mite and hive beetle control, among other requirements.

The past couple of years have been hard on mountain beekeepers with higher than normal losses. Last year, I was traveling for business and could not keep an eye on my bees’ environment. The result was an invasion of European and Baldface hornets at my main apiary, where they managed to kill eight very productive hives in the fall!

The combination of normal and extraordinary threats facing my bees led me to formulate the following plan for this year.

- Continue with normal (one in August and another in November) mite treatments and small hive beetle (SHB) efforts.
- Continue our efforts to eliminate SHB in the hives and salt the ground (Late March end of spring) around the hives to help break the SHB life cycle.
- Add one or two hive bodies to the remaining strong hives in early March to allow the active queens to build for spring splits and minimize swarming.

- Ordered and installed 20 Carniolan queens and used top feeders to encourage buildup.
- Moved the existing queens to the splits in two-thirds of existing hives, resulting in only two swarms out of the original 12 remaining hives.
- Caught and boxed the two swarms.
- Used a thermal scanner to identify potential Hornet nests hidden in trees on our property.
- The third week of March installed eight hornet/wasp traps located around the main apiary. Within the first two weeks caught 20 hornets/wasps and three of their queens including one Baldface hornet queen. At one of my other apiaries, the chemical-free farmer burned a stump filled with the European hornets; luckily, he didn’t burn the surrounding woods.
- Mid-April, we added hive bodies and supers to ensure adequate space for growth. Remember, these are Carniolan bees, which tend to have an exploding population in spring as opposed to the steady buildup of the Italian bees.
- February through April (generally the wildflower flow starts in early May) we kept sugar syrup at the community feeders and checked to determine what time the European hornets and wasps showed up to forage on honey bees. This approach allowed us to kill another half dozen of these hornets and wasps.



Hornet

- Continue to maintain the wasp traps only using the lower compartment since the bees like the upper section too much.

While this plan allowed the hives to grow, the weather wasn’t cooperative. In March and April, we had several freezing periods, which delayed the normal explosion of the Carniolan bees. The net result was the build continued well into the wildflower flow, limiting our normal honey production. They are now ready for the sourwood flow.

We will keep the traps operating through this season to minimize the chances of hornets and wasps rebuilding or establishing new colonies. As soon as the sourwood flow is complete and harvested, we plan to do our next mite treatment. Then, depending on the early fall condition of the hives, we will likely treat for mites again.

Beekeeper of the Year 2020

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: Chair: Bobby Chaisson; Kelley Campbell, Steve Nofs, and Andy Marcus.

To nominate a GBA member for Beekeeper of the Year, [click here](#). Be sure to be specific in your nomination. What you write is what the committee will consider. **The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, July 15th.** Announcement of Beekeeper of the Year for 2020 will be made at the GBA Fall Conference.

Deadline: July 15

Connecting COVID-19 and Bee Venom?

Harold Ward passed along this article from the National Center for Biotechnology Information.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7190514/>

It outlines a discovery in China that maps out a connection between the COVID-19 virus and people who frequently get bee stings such as beekeepers and api therapists.

This is **not** a scientific study but an **observation** and a call for research.

The screenshot shows the top portion of a scientific article page. At the top, there is a blue header for 'Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection' with a sub-header 'Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Initiative'. Below this, the article title 'Bee venom and SARS-CoV-2' is displayed. The authors listed are 'Wei Yang*', 'Fuliang Hu', and 'Xiao-feng Xu'. Their affiliations are 'Oncology, Hangzhou Red Cross Hospital, 268 Huancheng East Road, Hangzhou, 310003, Zhejiang, China' and 'College of Animal Science, Zhejiang University, 880 Yuhangtang Road, Hangzhou, 310058, Zhejiang, China'. The page also includes publication information: 'Toxicol. 2020 Jul 15; 181: 69-70. Published online 2020 Apr 30. doi: 10.1016/j.toxicol.2020.04.105'. On the right side, it lists 'PMCID: PMC7190514' and 'PMID: 32260140'. At the bottom, there is a note: 'According to data from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, the global number of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeded 2.0 million on the 15th of April. I am a physician, and I participated the prevention and control of coronavirus in China.'

Screen capture of the article

How to get a Bee Butt

– by Kathy Bourn
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

When I say “a bee butt” I’m not talking about a bee’s butt or the bee headbutt we get when the bees are angry. No, just think of it as a different version of the bee beard you’ve seen in so many pictures. I got my bee butt this way.

Julia Mahood asked me to build her a long Langstroth hive for one of her bee yards. It was to replace two standard Langs. The area is in a flood plain so the stands are high and there is a step up so you can only stand in one place to work the hives

The original hives had entrances in opposite directions. When we removed the two Langs and installed the long Lang, one entrance direction was the same but for the other colony the entrance was missing. As we transferred the frames to the new hive, the bees started looking for the old entrance and all they found was my backside. This is how you end up with a bee butt.



Lavender Bees



Here's a picture to buzz about. Honey and bumble bees on lavender. The bumble bees are crazy for it but the honey bees only seem to take notice when the lavender is the only thing around.

I harvested a frame from my flow hive as well. I have a comparison from last year's harvest and this year.

– Eva Creel



REQUESTING LICENSE PLATE PROCEEDS FUNDS

Our license plate was first available last July for sale, and has since been in constant demand. Every time a plate is sold, GBA gets \$22. Last year from July through December, that amounted to \$27,060. There is a wise and careful License Plate Proceeds Committee set up to steer the spending of this money. Sophia Price chairs the committee. The members include Bob Binnie, Katie Goodman, Gina Gallucci, Derrick Fowler, Linda Tillman and Paul Berry (three members at large and the officers of GBA). Our agreement is to spend last year's money in 2020. In 2021, we will spend the money brought in in 2020. That way we are never spending more than we actually have.

Our mission, as defined by how we submitted the approval documents to the state, is that this money must be spent for the education goals of GBA. To that end, a portion of it will go to pay for good speakers, a portion will go to the prison education program, a portion of it will go to miscellaneous education goals, and a portion of it will go to advertising. In order to continue having our Save the Honey Bee license plate on the road, we have to keep a minimum of 500 plates sold each year. With our own Julia Mahood's beautiful design, I don't think that will be an issue, but it is our responsibility to keep the public aware of its availability through advertising.

We definitely want to support our local clubs in your educational projects. We purchased Zoom to allow clubs to continue their educational endeavors in the time of COVID. We also can make other money available to clubs and want to. Has your club been wanting to put on a short course, but are hampered by financial constraints? [Apply to share in these funds](#). Do you want to contract with a nationally known speaker out of state (you could have them on Zoom!) but don't have \$1000 to pay them? [Apply for your club to share in these funds](#). Does your club have a project in mind to educate your local area about the importance of the bee but you haven't embarked on it for lack of money? [Apply to let your club share in these funds](#).

If you lose this application link, it was sent to all the presidents in an email in late June and it resides on the [Board Forum on our website](#) (accessible to voting members of the GBA Board).



PROMOTING THE PLATE

– by *Sophia Price*
Chair, Tag Proceeds Committee

GBA members, we need your help! We have a wonderful state tag promoting beekeeping. We need to inform the public, as well as beekeepers, of its availability. Would you please take a few moments of your time and volunteer to help?

We need your help to deliver a sample tag to your local tag office to be placed on display. Simple and easy, but we need extra hands and legs to help do this.

If you would like to help with the license plate sales that contribute so much to GBA and in turn give back to your local association. [sign up on the link provided](#). Once you have signed up,

we will mail sample tags to you to deliver to the tag office. Tag offices are beginning to open and we need these examples of our bee tag on display.

[Here is the link to sign up to help deliver tag samples](#). The address of each county office can be found in the SignUpGenius link.

Thank you so much for helping to do this for GBA and your community. Only a few states have a bee tag, and we are fortunate to be a state that has one. We are also fortunate to have members like you who are willing to help. Thank you for volunteering to take just a few moments to take a display tag to your tag office.

UPCOMING OFFICER ELECTIONS

We elect a president, vice-president and three directors at the 2020 fall conference.

Does one of those positions appeal to you? A complete list of the various officers and directors as well as their respective duties [can be found here](#). Deadline for nominations is July 31, 2020.

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

We do have an elections committee, but we do not put up a slate of officers. Instead we are a very democratic organization and anyone can nominate themselves or someone else for one of these positions. If you are interested, please nominate

yourself. If you'd like to nominate someone else, please check with them first to make sure they are willing to run.

Here is the [form to fill out if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else](#).

To vote for these positions, you must be registered for the conference. The vote will be emailed to you beginning August 1, 2020. Our by-laws say that you must be present at the conference and the GBA Board has voted that for this virtual conference only, we will hold the vote by email and will declare being "present" at the conference as being registered and having paid for the conference.

We can't possibly know about everyone who wants to serve GBA, so if you are interested, [please let us hear from you](#).

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Lake Country Beekeepers

With the honey harvest over, or almost—in this strange COVID 19 year—we have not been meeting as a club. Our members are being encouraged to communicate with each other, especially new members who may have questions. Long time members are generally very happy to share knowledge and experience. Just talking with each other about happenings of the hive is generally enjoyable for bee keepers of all levels of experience.

Reminders of seasonal needs—feeding in this low nectar season, inspecting hives, Varroa treatment are being encouraged.

LCBA will not meet in July and possibly not in August. Meanwhile we feed and care for our bees and look forward to meeting together when it is safe and recommended

We also look forward to the GBA Virtual Fall Conference on September 25th and 26th.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

We will again hold our monthly meeting via Zoom video-conference on July 21st, at 7 pm. The speaker will be Jennifer Berry and her topic will be the Varroa mite. Berry is the Research Professional and Lab Manager for the UGA Honey Bee Program, as well as the owner operator of Honey Pond Farm. As always, a mentoring session will be held ahead of the actual meeting at 6:30 pm.

Looking ahead, MABA's August 18th meeting will also be held online via Zoom. Master beekeeper Dan Long will be discussing Bee Lining. MABA is tentatively hoping to return to in-person meetings beginning on September 15th. The group meets at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta. The church's large meeting hall is large enough to accommodate social distancing measures.

West Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association monthly meeting and other activities are postponed until further notice due to Covid-19. All members are encouraged to continue to contact other members for beekeeping suggestions and recommen-

dations. We plan to host our annual short course in beekeeping on November 7th, 2020 at the American Legion Post, Douglasville Georgia. We will keep everyone posted as the date approaches. Continue to stay safe.

Just one more note:

Peter Schrand (MABA) lost his uncapping tool and couldn't wait for a new one to arrive so he made this!



Enter...



...our virtual honey contests –
**the GBA Fall Virtual Honey Contest
and/or the National Black Jar Contest.**
[Click here to read the rules.](#)

– Thank you!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE.



FALL MEETING UPDATE



**KEEP
CALM
AND
ZOOM
ON**

**The GBA Fall Meeting will be held
September 25 and 26 as scheduled!**

**However, due to the pandemic the location has been
changed from Gainesville to your living room.**

**We are thrilled that all of our speakers are available to
speak via Zoom! The meeting committee is working hard to
bring you the best virtual experience possible.**

**Keep reading the newsletter each month to find out how to
enter a virtual honey show and more!**

**Featuring: CINDY BEE, JAMIE ELLIS, DAVE TARPY,
KEITH DELAPLANE *and* VIRGINIA WEBB**



Spilling The Honey

AUGUST 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Georgia Beekeepers,

Nobody would have wished to spend all these months in front of their computer on Zoom, but we are all adjusting. Many clubs have used our Zoom subscriptions to hold their meetings. We think it's easy but I know it isn't easy for everyone. Gina, Jonathan and I try to make it as easy as possible by showing up at the beginning of the meetings, helping people find the "chat" function, pointing folks to the "mute" button, and assisting the speakers to share their screen.

While it will never be the same as face to face, it is still a great way to see each other's faces and to hear each other's voices; to interrupt each other's talking; and to laugh at each other's jokes and teasing. If your club hasn't tried it yet, let me encourage you to do so. The number of COVID cases are up in Georgia and I expect this will be going on for a long time. Why not meet by Zoom?

By the way, if you are afraid to try it, get in touch with me and I'll help you myself. And if you are a club president and think that you have to be some kind of computer whiz to use it, let me assure you that you do not. Let us help! Gina, Jonathan and I are glad to assist.

Almost half of our clubs have taken us up on our invitation. The latest to use our Zoom accounts was Forsyth Beekeepers who heard a talk on mead from Brian of Etowah Meadery and hosted by Bobby Thanepson. To reserve a Zoom meeting time for your club, [click here](#).

While it will be yet more Zooming, do plan to join us for our GBA Fall Conference. It's only \$15 for two days of good beekeeping knowledge on September 25 and 26 and some fun interactions with beekeepers from all over the state. Celebrate our 100th Anniversary with a Zoom time with all of your beekeeping buddies.

Don't forget that you can enter the [GBA honey show](#) as well as the [GBA National Black Jar Contest](#). This will probably be the only time in your beekeeping life when your honey will not be penalized for having honey on the jar lid!

Our conference is advertised in this month's edition of *Bee Culture* and in *American Bee Journal* as well. Also there are articles about the virtual honey show (by Brutz English) in the ABJ and about using Zoom in the time of COVID (by Linda Tillman) in *Bee Culture*. We expect with bee meetings canceled all over the country that we may have participants from all over the place.

[Register here in just a few short steps!](#)

Hope you are bee-ing well,

Linda T.



Absconding 101

– by Linda Tillman
President, GBA

At 6 PM on a July Friday, my bees were flying in larger and larger circles above the hive. I wasn't sure what was happening. Were they being robbed? Were they swarming? Bees were everywhere on a hot July evening. Not the typical time for a swarm or the beginning of a robbery.

I shot the spray nozzle on my hose straight up into the air. In about 15 minutes, the bees returned to the hive.

If they were swarming, I would at least get a queen cell out of it. Early the next morning I opened the hive found every single frame completely empty: no honey, no pollen, no larvae. These bees were absconding!

We are in a dearth and while they had honey in my most recent inspection, they didn't have enough to make it through the winter. Maybe that's why they wanted to leave. I decided immediately to move the hive to the nearby community garden and see if they would stay there. The move took four long hot hours. I put two quarts of honey in a feeder in the new hive.

Why do bees abscond and how is it different from swarming? My bees have absconded before in my apiaries. A colony, overrun by small hive beetles, absconded a few years ago. Another colony absconded in the face of approaching forest fires in N. Georgia. Another colony left a completely empty box in 2013.

Mark Winston says: "Absconding can be defined as the abandoning of a nest by a colony which forms a swarm and presumably reestablishes itself elsewhere. Absconding swarms differ from reproductive swarms in that few or no workers and no adult or viable immature queens are left behind in the original colony."



Bees clustered at base of the wet hive after the water hose shower



New home for bees in the community garden

(Winston, Mark, *The Biology of the Honey Bee*, p. 218)

Resource-induced absconding, according to Winston, happens during the dearth when resources are scarce. When absconding happens because of a disturbance like the forest fire in the mountains in 2016, the bees

(continued on next page)

Absconding 101 – (cont'd)

– by Linda Tillman
President, GBA

don't prepare. So those bees left behind full frames of honey. But absconding like my bees were planning involves lots of preparation.

Winston says that for weeks ahead of time, bees prepare for absconding. They reduce brood-rearing about 25 days before they leave and "rear no new larvae in the 10 - 15 days preceding absconding." (Winston, p. 219) If the queen lays eggs during this time, the workers eat them. They time their absconding to happen after the last brood has emerged so they can leave with lots of new, young bees to help start the new colony.

On two occasions, the one at my house this July and in 2013, I saw the bees preparing to abscond, carrying out white larvae. I thought, "How hygienic!" But instead they were preparing to abscond and leave no untended brood behind.

The bees gorge with honey (way more than if a hive is preparing to swarm) so that all that they leave in the hive box are wax combs. Winston suggests that they consume all the pollen to store as protein in their fat bodies and hypopharyngeal glands. Unlike swarms, the bees don't send out scouts ahead of leaving. Instead they fly long distances (as much as 100 miles) before scouting for a new place. They will fly through areas of poor forage to find somewhere with a source of food before settling down. They often settle in what Winston calls "interim locations" in their search for a better living situation.



Hive the day after the move. Calm bees. The grass is stuffing up the hole in the inner cover to prevent robbers from entering where the honey jars are in Boardman feeders

The day after I moved them, the almost-absconded hive appears settled in the community garden. But for all I know, it is an interim location for them. Maybe they will take in the quarts of honey I have given them and leave again for parts unknown, where there is still a flow. But if I am lucky, they will appreciate the blooming squash in the community garden and the smorgasbord of goodies in the across-the-street Atlanta Botanical Garden and will happily stay. I'm crossing my fingers.



LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

Bill Owens

– by Bobby Chaisson
Tri County Beekeepers Assoc.

For Bill Owens beekeeping came naturally. As a young boy Bill learned beekeeping from his father where he always had a few hives on the family farm. Although they never sold honey, it certainly sparked a lifelong journey for Bill.

In 2000 Bill bought his first package and did his first bee removal. Since that time his hobby has formed into quite the small business that is known for service and dependability. In 2005 Owens Apiaries was formed and in a very short time added Georgia Bee Removal as a subsidiary, providing top notch bee removal services throughout Georgia.

Bill has held several official positions in local, state, and regional beekeeping associations. Starting in 2002 he enrolled in the Georgia Master Beekeeper program through the University of Georgia. In 2006 he became the first person in Georgia to complete the highest level of the program, Master Craftsman Beekeeper. He has also co-authored the book *Honey Bee Removal*. Bill was awarded the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2016.

Bill has been a mentor to countless beekeepers all over the world. He has been a staff instructor with the Young Harris beekeeping institute, taught at countless numerous clubs and short courses across Georgia and has even traveled to other countries to help start beekeeping programs.

I can truly say anyone who has had the pleasure to meet Bill, be in a class or program he has taught or just took some time to chat with him, will see that he is not only an amazing beekeeper but also an amazing friend to anyone he meets.

Bill is a great friend to me and has definitely made a difference to me and my beekeeping career and is truly a Legend in Georgia Beekeeping.



Georgia Bee
Removal

ANISE HYSSOP

The Pollinator Party Plant

– by Georgia P Zumwalt



In the evening I just take a peek on the underside of the leaves and find bumblebees and carpenter bees sleeping. I've even found a few curled up on the tops of leaves, adorably cuddling with the tiny flowers—just precious!. Anise hyssop is in the mint family. This is the first time I've ever planted it in my garden and I regret I only planted two of these party plants. I expected to enjoy some lovely anise-flavored tea as a benefit of this addition, but I had no idea it would attract so much pollinator attention and in turn provide me with so much entertainment. I'll be planting a lot more anise hyssop, so the pollinator party will be even bigger next year!



Did you hear about the party at the anise hyssop? If not, it could be because you're not a pollinator. While most of the early summer flowers are well past production in my area, the nectar is certainly flowing at the AH and the party is on.

Honey bees, bumblebees, carpenter bees, hummingbirds, beetles, and an array of beautifully colored butterflies (and various other bees I've never seen before) all hang out on the lavender colored floral stalks of this plant—day and night. When the sun begins setting, the honey bees and many of the other pollinators return home to rest up for the next day's party, but a few "crash on the couch" of the anise hyssop.

The VIRTUAL Honey Show



The GBA's 2020 Virtual Honey Show will be presented on September 25th, 2020, as part of the GBA 100th Anniversary Fall Conference. Winners will be announced and awards made online on that date. The deadline to enter this year's Honey & Beeswax Show will be September 1st, 2020. There are going to be some logistical changes, and certain accommodations in judging will have to be made (see below), to facilitate this year's Honey & Beeswax Show, but the ultimate purpose and the high standards of our show remain the same.

There will be nine (9) classes in this year's honey show including extracted honey, creamed honey, comb honey, beeswax blocks, beeswax bars, beeswax candles, and Black Jar. Judging will be on September 12th. Awards will be made for 1st through 6th places in each category, for Best Honey, Best Beeswax, and Best in Show. First Prizes also take \$100, and the Best In Show prize comes with a \$500 check.

Exhibits can only be submitted via mail or shipping. There will be NO physical or in-person deliveries or drop-offs.



YES, you will be able to get your exhibits back (more on this further down)! We realize this method of submission will subject everyone's exhibits to the rigors and perils of commercial shipping. We expect some exhibits will arrive having been jostled or worse. We are accounting for this, and the following are some of the accommodations we are making to deal with that particular problem.

First, we have set the shipping deadline (Sept. 1st) well in advance of the judging date (Sept. 12th). This will hopefully give all the exhibits several days of settling time between when they arrive and when the packages are opened and judged. Further, the shipping instructions in the show



rules direct exhibitors to mark their packages "THIS SIDE UP". Yes, we know the Postal service and UPS will almost certainly ignore this message. Truly, however, it is not intended for them, but rather for our show staff. This is so we know how to set the packages when they arrive so that gravity might work to the exhibitor's advantage for a few days until it's time for judging. While it's admittedly not perfect, it will undoubtedly be helpful to a great many exhibitors' chances.

Second, we are allowing the use of both plastic jars and pressure-sealing, tamper-proof seals on those plastic jars. Obviously, plastic jars are less susceptible to being broken during shipping, and the tamper-proof seals inside those flip-top lids are insurance against leakage. Please note, no form of tamper-proof seals are allowed with any glass containers. If you choose glass, be sure to pack it good and tighten those lids down firmly.

Finally, the show rules specifically call for judging allowances for honey on the underside of lids as well as for honey on the inside air space in the jars. Hopefully, the settling days built into the schedule and gravity will alleviate these

(continued on next page)

The VIRTUAL Honey Show – (cont'd)



two issues, but in the event that they don't, these two faults will not be scored adversely on any exhibit.

The above are the only real deviations from the traditional judging criteria and methodology. We will still be looking primarily at sanitation, conformity with the elements specified in the rules, and uniformity. Clean jars and closures, clean & clear honey, fill levels, moisture content, flavor, and aroma are all still judged the same way and to the same exacting standards. There are no judging accommodations for and of the beeswax or candle classes. If it's not right, it will not get a blue ribbon.

For those exhibitors who would like to have their exhibits back after the show, all you have to do is 1) mark that option on your entry form and 2) include a self-addressed,

self-adhesive, pre-paid shipping label in the package along with your entry form and exhibits. Return labels are simple and easy to generate online. Alternatively, most U.S. Post offices, UPS Stores, and FedEx retailers can generate a return shipping label at their respective service desks. We will ship your exhibit(s) back to you in the box, with the packing materials in which you submitted your exhibit(s). Return exhibits will be shipped back to exhibitors AFTER the show results are announced on September 25th.

This year's Honey & Beeswax Show is going to be a lot of fun! 2020 has been a great year for our bees. The weather (for the most part) has been exceptional. The bees have been free from government lock-downs and social distancing requirements, and they have been working straight through the pandemic. In other words, there's no excuse for this not to be a great year for honey and beeswax production! So get out there, get those supers off, dust off your extractors, and fire up those wax melting pots! The GBA Fall Honey & Beeswax Show is still on, and we want to see all of the delicious honey and beautiful beeswax you all worked so hard for this year!

The complete and official rules for the GBA 2020 Honey & Beeswax Show [can be found here](#). If you have any questions regarding the GBA 2020 Honey & Beeswax Show, please contact Brutz English at brutzenglish@gmail.com or Mary Cahill-Roberts at beecharmer0703@gmail.com.

Tips and Tricks for Shipping Honey Show Entries

– by **Kara L. Bassett**

Senior Welsh Honey Judge

Letter Carrier & AMS Specialist, United States Postal Service

Postage, Labels, and Special Designations

- I highly recommend going to the retail counter at your Post Office or the UPS Store to have your parcel weighed and have both labels printed so you have the full and correct postage. Inadequate postage will delay your shipment and could result in its return.
- Priority postage is recommended but not required for USPS, as Priority mail includes a basic level of insurance should you have a claim for damage or loss.
- No matter which shipper you choose, pay for tracking and save your tracking numbers for both the shipment to the show and the return shipment.
- You MUST declare your parcel contains a liquid (honey) or flammable material (wax).
- Print your prepaid return label and place INSIDE your box. Show staff will repack and relabel your box. Parcels and entries without return postage will not be returned.
- Print your shipping label to affix to your box.
- Clearly mark the outside of your box in bold marker with any of the following: LIQUID, GLASS, or FRAGILE.

Packing and Sealing Your Box

- Practice with honey jars filled with water. Toss the parcel around and drop it a few times then check for damage or leaks.

- Use a sturdy box. Parcels are stacked in large containers or pallets and they are subject to crushing weights.
- Completely fill the parcel with packing material so there is no internal space for items to shift. This also prevents some crushing damage.
- Seal parcel with shipping tape, do not use scotch tape, masking tape, or paper tape as these tapes easily come off.
- Don't forget to include all completed forms inside your parcel.
- Shipper trucks are HOT, typically 20 degrees or greater than outside temperatures. Consider an insulated foam shipping insert for wax products.
- Consult with your chosen shipper on the use of dry ice and carrier specific guidelines.

Showmanship Tips

- Consider making a simple silk or satin bag or microfiber wrap for each individual jar or container. This will keep the outside free of lint or particles from the packing materials.
- Designate "this side up" for the show secretary. Although this will not be considered during shipping, the show secretary will place your parcel accordingly to allow settling of the liquids before unpacking the items for showing.

We are looking forward to your entries. Good luck.

BEEKEEPING HISTORY IN GEORGIA

GBA: The First Decade

– by Virginia Stephens Webb

The first ten years of the GBA were trying ones for this new association. But with the leadership determined to provide education and informational meetings they work to share this knowledge with others throughout the state. Below is some of the information that was gleaned from our first ten years.

July 3, 1920 - met in Waycross, GA

First organizing meeting with 75 members present.

August 19, 1921 - met in Macon, GA

100 members present.

Governor Hardwick declares November 4-12 as Georgia Honey Week

August 24-26, 1922 – met in Hopkins, GA

Combined meeting with the American Honey Producers League

October 12, 1923 – met in Atlanta, GA

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner was guest speaker

October 29-30, 1924 – Met in Savannah, GA

75 members present

E. R. Root was guest speaker

September 14-15, 1925 – met in Valdosta, GA

70 members present

September 14-15, 1926 – met in Valdosta, GA

First state bee inspector report given for Georgia Dept. of Agriculture

Sept 14-15, 1927 – met in Baxley, GA

September 19-20, 1928 – met in Macon, GA

Reviewed the new Georgia Bee Law regarding EFB and AFB.

GBA approved the new law

September 11-12, 1929 – met in Claxton, GA

The Georgia Dept of Agriculture gave the State Bee Inspectors report.



The Beekeeper's Workbench:

BEE VACUUM

— by Dan Long
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers

A Bee Vac is a handy tool for several beekeeping tasks, especially removals and swarm capture. Some designs are very effective and gentle on the bees. Most require electricity to operate a modified vacuum cleaner. Several times I've been in the field and wished I had a portable solution.

I set out taking measurements and rummaging through the storeroom and wood pile for parts. There was enough plywood; heavier than needed but free! Some plexiglass, hinges and clasps. A little pipe insulation. An old vacuum hose, a pipe clamp and a U bolt. I just needed a plumbing fitting from the hardware store. I've since purchased a longer hose that is very flexible and has a smooth inner wall to be gentler on the bees.

The box is just big enough for the Bee Bus and the pipe fitting with a little insulation makes a nice seal over the opening inside. A little more foam as a gasket seals the gap between the wall and the blower inlet. The two clasps hold the blower snug. Holes on the other side help me to see the pile of bees building up and maybe encourage them to stay low in the bus to get to the light.

With five buses, I can swap out and safely collect and transport 15lbs of bees. The blower has 3 speeds and the middle setting works just right so I never added a bypass to reduce the vacuum. A shoulder strap hooks to eye bolts on the end. With the longer hose, it can be left on the ground even for a higher climb.

It works great!



I've always liked the Owens Bee Vac design and appreciate the need for good ventilation to keep the bees from overheating. A few years ago, a friend gave me five empty Bee Buses (a reusable bee package system). I realized they could be a ventilated cage for a bee vac. It could also work with our battery operated blower, if built just right. We already have heavy duty batteries for it to use in our chainsaws, so there wouldn't be a worry about running out of power in the field.

The Bee Vac.

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

– by *Bobby Chaisson*
Chairman, Election committee

This year we will be electing the President, Vice President, and three directors for GBA. I wanted everyone to have a chance to get to know each person running for those positions so we have included a short bio and picture for them.

During the fall conference you will have the chance to cast your vote for these positions online. Our by-laws state that the attendees at

the fall conference are the members who can vote for officers. Our GBA Board decided to define that for our virtual conference as members who have registered for the conference. We will send out a link to all the registered conference attendees.

This is your chance to help shape the future of the Georgia Beekeepers Association so make sure to cast your vote.



KELLEY CAMPBELL

I always figured I'd start beekeeping once I retired, but I was challenged to “try it, just for the summer” in 2013, and made it a constant. In addition to GBA, I'm a current, active member in multiple clubs and discussion groups, including Forsyth Beekeepers, Cherokee Beekeepers, Beekeepers of Gwinnett, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, Natural Beekeeping Discussion, Union Hill Discussion, and Cobb Discussion. Teaching pays the bills, and other hobbies besides beekeeping include whitewater

kayaking, dog sports, hiking, bicycling, and motorcycle rides.



BOBBY CHAISSON

I have served in the capacity of the northeast Georgia director for the last two years and it has been my pleasure to work with these clubs to strengthen the relationship with these clubs and GBA. I have also served as a member or chairperson for several committees with GBA. It has been amazing to be part of a board of such a great organization, and to assist beekeepers throughout Georgia.



MICHAEL CONNER

I started beekeeping in the 70's with my father, then life and girls happened so I took a pause from bees and started up again in 2015. I currently have 20 hives located in Forsyth, Jackson, and Barrow counties. I am a past vice-president of the Forsyth Beekeepers Club and current vice-president of the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County. I live in Jefferson, GA.

I am and current or past member of the following clubs: Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County, Forsyth Beekeepers Club, Amicalola Beekeepers, Cherokee Beekeepers Club, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers, Lake Country Beekeepers, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers, Oglethorpe County Beekeepers, Tara Beekeepers and Tri-County Beekeepers. I am also in the process of becoming a Welsh Honey Judge. On a personal note, I am married for 34 years with 2 adult children. I am a computer programmer who now works as a consultant specializing in backoff systems like HR and Payroll. My current client is Grady Hospital.

(continued on next page)

IT'S ELECTION TIME! – (cont'd)



BRUTZ ENGLISH

I have had the privilege of serving on the Georgia Beekeepers Association's Board of Directors for the past eight years. Over the course of my service on the GBA Board we have seen this organization grow from a couple of hundred individuals to well over a thousand members. 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 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.



DERRICK FOWLER

I've been a beekeeper for 10 years and generally keep 15-20 colonies at my home in Jackson County, sometimes I have a few more than that, but don't tell my wife, Kim. She never goes in the backyard. Thousands of stinging insects are a deterrent, but she's mostly worried about mosquitoes. I am a member of Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers and the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett where I'm currently serving on the Board of Directors after having served as President for 3 years in the past. I am a Journeyman beekeeper through the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute and have served as a Director for GBA and most recently GBA Secretary.



GINA GALLUCCI

I have been the GBA Vice President since 2016 and have been on the conference planning committee, Save the Bee plate development and proceeds committees, Buzz Fund committee, helped with the Spillin' The Honey newsletter and overall operations for the organization. My prior bee association experience includes serving as vice president and president of MABA, working on the MABA Short Course, chairing the swarm committee and answering questions on the MABA phone line. I joined GBA in 2012 and served as GBA newsletter co-editor for four years. I've been learning about and loving bees since 2006. When not working bees, I enjoy sharing GBA business with friends, my family and dogs, travel, reading, and I'm a long-time yoga practitioner. I pay for my bee hobby by managing my own heavy construction recruiting agency.



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Beekeepers of Gwinnett County

We held our first zoom meeting on July 14th. There were over 25 participants who enjoyed an excellent talk by Harold Lanier. Our next zoom meeting will be August 11th. Linda Tillman will be presenting.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Due to COVID-19, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers had to cancel its Beekeeping 101 class in March. Members Anita Curry and Rick Moore realized a need and have offered six beekeeping classes which have been attended by 35 people from the middle Georgia area. They have the perfect setup: an air-conditioned pool house large enough to accommodate six "students" while adhering to guidelines established for Covid safety.

Anita has an informative PowerPoint covering all the topics for a new beekeeper, provides multiple handouts with additional information, and the most important aspect of her class is the hands-on experience with bees from her apiary. At the July 18 class while inspecting a hive, an attendee saw a queen and she stated that this was the first time she had ever seen one. Anita and Rick understand that some experiences just can't be explained, they have to be experienced.

Anita raises queens, sells nucs, and maintains approximately 50 hives. She and her husband have a passion for beekeeping and a willingness to share their knowledge and time to mentor beginning as well as assist advanced beekeepers. Heart of Georgia is blessed by their dedication to beekeeping and beekeepers!

Anyone interested in more information about the classes may contact Anita at anitacurry1159@gmail.com.



Anita Curry (yellow shirt) and her husband Rick Moore (to her right in black t-shirt) with their July 18 attendees.



Anita explaining how to open a hive. Observing the bees.

Can you find the queen? Wow, look at all those bees!



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.

On Tuesday, September 15th, 7-8:30 pm, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association will again convene their monthly meeting via Zoom online conferencing instead of in person. This month's speaker will be Journeyman beekeeper and MABA Board member Jimmy Gatt. Nothing is more important to MABA than the safety of its members, and Gatt's talk, "Safety in the Bee Yard," will point up some of the dangers that go hand in hand with beekeeping and what steps beekeepers can take to stay safe. Gatt is the admin of MABA's popular

Facebook group "Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Mentoring and Exchange," which is a safe place for beekeepers to talk about beekeeping in the Metro Atlanta area. He has been keeping bees since 2017 and enjoys public speaking about the best things to plant for honey bees and native bees. A brief mentoring session beginning at 6:30 pm precedes each MABA meeting. This is an ideal time to ask questions and get answers from experienced metro area beekeepers.

West Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.

Our monthly meeting and other activities are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19. All members are encouraged to reach out to other members for beekeeping suggestions and support. We plan to host our annual short course in

beekeeping on November 7th, 2020 at the American Legion Post, Douglasville Georgia. We will keep everyone posted on the monthly meeting and the upcoming short course. Continue to be safe.



CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF BEEKEEPING

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

WELCOME! GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS



2020 OFFICERS

President

Linda Tillman

Vice President

Gina Gallucci

Secretary

Derrick Fowler

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Paul Berry

Newsletter Editors

Holly Bayendor &

Kathy Bourn

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Mary Cahill Roberts

Webmaster

Harvest Hoffman

DIRECTORS

Jennifer Berry

Bobby Chaisson

Brutz English

David Logue

Steve Esau

Sophia Price

Bobby Torbush

Celebrate!

The Georgia Beekeepers Association is 100 years old this year and is 1000 members strong. We began as a small group of beekeepers meeting in Waycross, Georgia and are now a state-wide group offering two large conferences every year with almost fifty clubs across the state. We have programs in the prisons, offer training to established as well as junior beekeepers, and unite clubs in the various areas of the state through the work of our directors on the GBA Board. Cars around the state are sporting our honey bee license plate. Among our members are beginners, hobbyists, Master Beekeepers, sideliners, and commercial beekeepers alike. Welcome to our fall conference!

Thank you for “Zooming” in to join us.

These are unprecedented times and we welcome the opportunity to be creative in how we hold our conference. Meeting virtually is a way for us to have fun, learn a lot and stay healthy all at the same time. We want to keep our members, speakers, and guests as safe as possible.

Instructions for joining our Keynote and Breakout sessions

You will receive these instructions by email before the conference in plenty of time to be able to join in.

The Virtual Honey Shows

Our honey show committee decided to take on two virtual honey shows and you can enter them both. By registering for this conference, you can enter the GBA Honey Show and your instructions are in your confirmation email. You can also enter the GBA National Black Jar Contest by [clicking on this link](#).

Visit Our Vendors

Oh, of course you can't, but we will be sharing our vendors' information with you throughout the conference and hope you will find items to purchase online just as if you had been able to wander into their booths in the conference center.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:45 - 9:00 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:00 - 9:45 **KEYNOTE 1**

Jamie Ellis: WHAT IS KILLING OUR BEES (AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT)?

Beekeeping is harder than ever. Colony loss rates are high in many areas around the world. Old pests and pathogens continue to cause problems. New pests and pathogens threaten colony health. Herein, Dr. Ellis will discuss what is killing bees around the world and what can be done to reduce the losses.

9:50 - 10:00 BREAK- Visit Virtual Vendors

10:00 - 10:50 **BREAKOUT A** (see page 7 for details)

10:50 - 11:40 **KEYNOTE 2**

Cindy Bee: THE APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPING COLLECTIVE -

AN APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING IN POVERTY-STRICKEN COMMUNITIES

This talk discusses the efforts to connect the unemployed workforce of Appalachia with the power of beekeeping as a supplement for income. The approach is two-fold: teaching beekeeping for a source of income, and reforesting the sections of mountains devastated by coal mining.

11:40 - 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 - 1:50 **KEYNOTE 3**

David Tarpy: DIAGNOSING QUEEN PROBLEMS: IS IT THE QUEEN, THE COLONY, BOTH, OR NEITHER?!

Practical advice-based on empirical research-looking at different symptoms and attributing whether or not the problem is the queen's fault. A lesson in showing how we blame the queen way more often than it's actually her fault.

1:50 - 2:00 BREAK- Visit Virtual Vendors

2:00 - 2:50 **KEYNOTE 4**

Keith Delaplane: THIRTY YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP: RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN UGA AND GBA

A retrospective of the fruitful collaborations between GBA and UGA and the luminous personalities who made it possible.

2:50 - 3:10 **Honey Show Awards Announced**

3:15 - 3:30 Honey show video viewing with Brutz

3:30 - 3:45 Linda says "Good evening."



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:30 - 8:45 **VOTE** for President/Vice-President or visit vendors

8:45 - 9:00 Announcements & Door prizes

9:00 - 10:00 **GBA Business Meeting and Buzz Fund presentations**

Beekeeper of the Year Announced

10:00 - 10:10 **BREAK** - Visit Virtual Vendors

10:10 - 11:00 **KEYNOTE 5**

Cindy Bee: BEEKEEPING AS A SUPER POWER - SOME TIPS AND TRICKS ALONG THE WAY
There are a few things I've learned that make things more salient, or just plain make things easier. Doing things that work frees us to listen to that call to keep bees, that call we keep responding to despite all the challenges.

11:05 - 11:55 **BREAKOUT B** (see page 7 for details)

12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00 - 1:50 **KEYNOTE 6**

Jamie Ellis: THE BIRDS AND THE BEES: WELL, JUST THE BEES
Individual honey bees and honey bee colonies both reproduce. In this lecture, you will learn about the mating and reproductive habits of queen and drone honey bees. The reproduction of individual bees will be placed in a larger context with that of colony-level reproduction, a feat accomplished by the swarm.

1:50 - 2:35 **KEYNOTE 7**

David Tarp: HONEY BEES: MYTHOLOGY, RELIGION, WARFARE, AND POLITICS
This is an interesting confluence of how honey bees have been woven into society from ancient times to the modern day. Many cultures have, and still do, consider honey bees as otherworldly. Hear tales and stories about bees that have arisen over the centuries. Moreover, you'll be surprised how bees have been used, both directly and indirectly, in ancient and modern warfare!

2:35 - 2:45 **BREAK** - Visit Virtual Vendors

2:45 - 3:30 **KEYNOTE 8**

Virginia Webb: GBA - OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
Why did 65 men and women want to organize a beekeeping association for Georgia beekeepers? A lot has happened since they organized.

3:30 - 3:35 Linda says "Good-bye."



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Keith Delaplane, Ph.D has served as Professor of Entomology and director of the UGA Honey Bee Program since January 1990. He has worked with numerous GBA members over the years on a variety of research and education projects.



Jamie Ellis, Ph.D is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the department of entomology and nematology at the University of Florida. He has a BS degree in biology from the University of Georgia (USA) and a PhD in entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa.



Cindy Bee is a Master Beekeeper and grew up in Tennessee keeping bees with her father. She has dedicated herself to beekeeping for over 50 years. Currently she runs the Virginia division of the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective and mentors over 40 beekeepers. Teaching the importance of beekeeping is a life-long passion.



David Tarpy, Ph.D is Professor of Entomology at North Carolina State University since 2003. He maintains a web site to disseminate information about honey bees, spearheads extension projects, and launched the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES) – an online resource for knowledge about bees. His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens to improve the health of queens and their colonies.



Virginia Webb is a third generation beekeeper. She and her late husband Carl Webb started MtnHoney, a commercial beekeeping operation in Habersham County Georgia. Virginia has taught beekeeping and beeswax products for years. She has served GBA in multiple ways over the years.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



Bethany Beck is a graduate of Covenant College with a bachelor's in Environmental Biology.



Jennifer Berry is the research professional for the UGA Honey Bee Lab. Her passions include varroa and SHB research, educating the public about the importance of pollinators, and teaching beekeeping. She also operates Honey Pond Farm where she sells quality nucleus colonies and teaches classes.



Paul Berry started keeping bees in 1988, influenced by a neighbor who was a beekeeper. He took a break after a few years due to lack of time but restarted in 2002. Paul attained the level of Master Beekeeper after going through the UGA Master Beekeeping Program at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.



Rebecca Bycott is writer, educator and strategic communications consultant based in Washington, D.C., who specializes in helping businesses and organizations develop meaningful connections with their audiences through digital engagement. Her creative campaigns have supported the U.S. Department of State, higher education, nonprofits and companies worldwide. She has advised the GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee.



Brutz English is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and an internationally certified honey judge. He is Senior Presiding Judge and Director of Welsh Honey Judge Training Program at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute. Brutz chairs the GBA Honey Show Committee. He is a small-scale commercial honey producer and packer. He says he serves as consigliere to the Queen bee!



Keith Fielder is a certified Welsh honey judge and a Georgia Master Beekeeper. He has taught beekeeping around the world. He is a frequent presenter at GBA, EAS, and Young Harris. He is the county extension coordinator for Putnam County. Keith is a sideline beekeeper and he and his wife Roseanne market honey and beeswax products. He was President of GBA in 2006 - 2007.



Julia Mahood is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and has kept bees since 2004. A past president of MABA, she was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2018.



Karen Palmer has been a beekeeper since 2012 and owner of Honey Please. She focuses on bee removals, nucs and honey. The "Queen bee" of around 75 colonies at her farm, she has found creative ways to recycle materials brought home from work and reusing it in her beekeeping.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

At every GBA conference, we offer breakouts to cover important needs. We have a breakout for ongoing honey judge certification (Honey Show Cookery); one for support for local clubs (Creating a Buzz using Social Media); and others with a practical beekeeping focus.

SESSION A

FRIDAY SESSION A • 10:00 -10:50

Beekeeping on the Cheap • Karen Palmer

For people who enjoy DIY projects and getting the most for their money beekeeping doesn't have to be expensive and can help you be creative. Bees can be kept in a variety of boxes and materials. You'll learn how to be resourceful and cut costs while still being practical.

The art of splitting hives and manipulating queens • Paul Berry

We will discuss increasing beehives in an apiary by splitting hives, when to do it and how to do it. Integral with splitting hives is the manipulation of queens in the process. We will discuss how to handle the queen when doing splits. Suggestions on how to find her and what to do with her.

Candy Making with Honey • Bethany Beck

Learn to make Lollipops using your honey. These make wonderful gifts. Wrap them in beeswax wraps for an extra touch.

Planting Pollinator Smorgasbords • Jennifer Berry

Thankfully, there seems to be a trend towards planting more forage for pollinators. Maybe the day where acres of grass (which needs to be mowed, weeded, sprayed, fertilized, sprayed again and watered), are a thing of the past. This session will open up discussion about what plants work for our region. Let's help each other figure out what best to feed those that feed us!



SESSION B

SATURDAY SESSION B • 11:05 -11:55

Honey Show Cookery • Brutz English

Learn about the ins and outs of preparing and exhibiting baked goods, cookery, and other food items made with honey. We will cover recipes, ingredients, conversions, and substitutions. We will discuss variables that can affect the finished product, including ingredient selection, techniques, honey varieties, and even the weather. We will also cover typical judging criteria and honey show rules.

Creating a Buzz About Beekeeping Through Social Media • Rebecca Bycott

Does your club use social media to share activities and updates? Are you sometimes unsure if you're reaching anyone? You're not alone! The good news? With a few creative strategies in place, you can create a buzz, build community and reach potential members. This talk will give you some go-to resources and ideas to try.

Making Show Quality Creamed Honey • Keith Fielder

Creamed honey is a value added product every bee keeper should know how to make. This program details the Dyce method of making creamed honey which is simple and provides consistent results.

Three invaders in 30 years: Three pests, their impacts, and why so different • Keith Delaplane

In the 30 years I've worked at UGA I've witnessed the introduction of tracheal mites, Varroa mites, and small hive beetles. The biology and economic impacts of these three are markedly different, and this talk will show how natural history affects the virulence of any pest and our options in managing it.

Drones for Drones • Julia Mahood

Learn all about the bad boys of the hive and how to find their stomping grounds- drone congregation areas - using a mechanical drone!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)



Spilling *The* Honey

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The most important thing I can say to all of you in this, my last President's Message, is **THANK YOU**. The opportunity to be the president of this organiza-

tion for the last four years has been an honor and a privilege beyond what I ever could have imagined. And all of you have made it a fantastic experience for me.

As President, I have had the privilege of meeting and knowing so many of you. We are a talented, energetic and extremely caring bunch. I now know people all through the state of Georgia and enjoy and care about you all.

My biggest thank you is to all of you, the members. I appreciate your enthusiasm and support. I appreciate seeing your smiling faces when we have these club zoom meetings and when we've had in-person meetings. I appreciate the many dinners I have shared with local clubs when I have come to visit. I appreciate all the suggestions people have put forth, even when I couldn't make them happen.

Behind me, carrying me through everything, has been such a wonderful team. I remember in graduate school in the 70s being asked to participate in trust exercises where, standing in the center of a circle of people, you let yourself fall backward, trusting that you would be caught by those around you. I was scared to death and didn't trust that anyone would be there. But with my GBA circle of incredibly supportive people, I have not hesitated to lean, to fall, to depend on them. And they always catch me.

While I'm scared I will leave someone out, I want to shine a special light on some of the dear, dear people who have been there for me.

- Gina Gallucci is by far the best vice-president anyone could wish for. We learned to work together well when we were co-editors of the GBA Newsletter for years before I was elected president. She and I have talked almost daily during these past four years. We've laughed sometimes and wanted to scream sometimes, but in the process, we've solved so many problems together. Gina thinks big and outside the box and always has a gentle suggestion that will make everything work better. I have treasured every moment of our being a team.
- Julia Mahood has always had my back. She listens well and then stops me from sending an email that isn't worded right. I call her whenever I feel stuck in a situation and don't know how to handle it. She thinks creatively and brings her artistic mind to practical problems and comes up with new ways of thinking about how to handle what seems unsolvable to me. And she gives me constant support.

- Brutz English steps up to the plate for all the hard stuff for me. He has warned me when problems are on the horizon and always has a volunteer plan for how he can help. He held my hand through the by-laws struggles; he has sewn together clubs that have been on the verge of falling apart; he assisted with our efforts to bring the commercial beekeepers into a more active space at GBA; he helped the fledgling attempts to coordinate the new roles of the directors; he created a virtual honey show. He truly has had my back for the particularly hard stuff. And he always seconds any motion that is on the floor.

- Bobby Chaisson has, in his own nonchalant way, done so much that I can't even list it. He makes suggestions with Internet savvy and comes through with so much volunteer energy that I am often just overwhelmed with the generosity of spirit he has brought to every task he has taken on with GBA: from carrying heavy boxes into conferences, to running the elections, to making creative ideas come to light for getting volunteers to do things, to connecting his area presidents to develop activities together.

- Thank you to all the officers and the GBA directors. Derrick Fowler is unfailing in his willingness to send out emails at a moment's notice; to send sympathy and get well cards to members; and to serve on committees he wasn't assigned to so we could have someone to take minutes! Paul Berry has had to learn Wild Apricot and has spent hours on the phone with technical help. And he had to get our bank accounts online. He manages all of our membership renewals, all of the registration payments for meetings and gets all the bills and speakers paid on time.

- And I want to note some of the yet-unmentioned local presidents who have stepped up in specific extra ways to help GBA: Sophia Price, Gail Dean, Dan Long, David Logue, Jonathan Hayes, Steve Nofs, Andy Marcus, Katie Goodman, and Eddie Gwaltney.

- Thank you so much to Harvest Hoffman. She created our website and meets all of my requests for help in uploading various GBA events and activities.

- Finally thank you to Holly and Kathy, our newsletter editors, who have put up with my sending in articles at the last minute and my need to look over their shoulders. They continually put out such an excellent newsletter for all of our members.

GBA is a strong and growing organization. You all have made it so. I have so loved being in this role for GBA and will miss working as president for all of you. I will always treasure what I have learned and gained from each of you and from this job. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Be well,

Linda T.



GA HB 857 and the Burning of Creosote Railroad Ties

Georgia Renewable Power (GRP) plants process and burn wood products in order to create biomass fuel. The electricity created is then sold to Georgia Power. One of the wood products used is railroad ties that have been treated with creosote.

Earlier this summer the Georgia General Assembly unanimously passed House Bill 857 that outlaws the burning of creosote treated wood at electricity-generating facilities, such as the GRP plants in Colbert (Madison County) and Carnesville (Franklin County). On August 4th, Governor Kemp signed the bill into law.



The new bill bans certain parties from burning railroad ties like these.

HB 857 doesn't ban all businesses from burning creosote. The bill allows existing businesses in Georgia to burn creosote, but not GRP plants.

This is a huge step for Georgia. Burning of railroad ties is toxic to us, our bees and our environment. Thankfully it will happen no more in Madison and Franklin counties, or in any other county in Georgia. Thank you GBA for helping to spread the word!

– Jennifer Berry

It is time to celebrate! HB 857 is now law. No more burning of creosote! Many of you have questions about the activities at GRP. There are many issues that still need to be addressed. Banning creosote was our first big step toward protecting our beautiful county from environmental hazards and protecting our citizens' health. Stay tuned for more info on the next initiative!

It is inspiring to see a community come together to fight for public health and fight against environmental injustice. Thank you for your constant support and encouragement. It keeps the wheels turning!

– Gina Ward, Co chair

Madison County Clean Power Coalition



Drago and RuthAnn Tesanovich, Gerry Wilson (from Franklin Fallout), and Gina Ward were present at the signing of GA HB 857.

More information on this topic is available in this issue of the Madison Journal.



LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

Cindy Bee

– by *Linda Tillman*
President, GBA

Cindy Bee, or Bee as she likes to be called, is truly a Georgia beekeeping legend. She touched the lives and impacted the knowledge of many of us in Georgia through her availability to answer questions, her book on bee removal, and her teaching both at local bee clubs and for years at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.

Bee has been beekeeping for as long as she can remember! Her family has included beekeepers for generations, thus the surname Bee. Her father was a beekeeper in Tennessee and her first teacher. She remembers being so little that she couldn't even reach up to grab his hand when he took her on her first bee encounter. It was a swarm call. "You want to go on an adventure?" he asked. He reached under the stairs where he had tucked a box, a veil, and some clippers.

Then he and Bee walked "forever" across the street and down the hill. When they got near a golf course, he left her on the pathway and told her to wait. But she couldn't stand it and wanted to see what he was doing. She was right by his side as he caught the swarm in the box. She really wanted to hold the box



couldn't get enough of it. Her dad wanted to take the box back and walk on. Then it was her turn to say, "Not yet, not yet!"

She spent twenty years in Georgia where she always had bees. She realized in Georgia that she couldn't be happy in her life unless she were in a place where she could look out of her window and see bees! She has managed to have bees in her life ever since.

She began doing bee removals as a big part of her beekeeping. When she first got started only one man was doing removals in Georgia. He was a mailman and when he fell off of a ladder doing a removal, his wife said, no more.



Above left: Bee at a MABA short course.

Above: At Young Harris, demonstrating how to render old wax with a pillow case and a stew pot.

Left: At the GBA conference at Lake Blackshear with Bobby Chaisson, Bill Owens, and Fred Rossman.

and to see into it. But he kept the box - she tugged and tugged at his shirt. "Not yet, not yet," he said. When they got to a shady place, she sat on a log and he set the box of bees in her lap. She was entranced by the hum of the teeming box of bees. She kept putting her cheek against the box and listening to the humming buzz. She just

So then nobody in Georgia was doing removals. Durant Warwick, a member of MABA for years, taught Bee how to remove hives from structures. Durant would call her to go on a removal and she would arrive at his house to find him sitting in a lawn chair, with his veil at his side. They would go to the removal site, where Durant again sat in his lawn chair and watched Bee do the job.

(continued on next page)

Cindy Bee – (cont'd)



He'd say, as she climbed a ladder, "I'll catch you on the first bounce when you fall." w

Once they did a removal and didn't find the queen. Bee commented that maybe they'd find her as they poured the bees into the hive. Durant had marked a bunch of drones and secretly added them to the box of bees. As they poured the bees into the box, she saw what might have been tons of queens until she realized he had tricked her!

When she taught the class on bee removal at Young Harris, Bill Owens was one of her students and was the only one to seriously take up the work of bee removal. They agreed to divide the state up so Bill would do the Athens area removals and Bee would do the Atlanta area ones. Kim Flottum convinced the two of them to write THE book on bee removals. Their book *Honey Bee Removal: A Step by Step Guide* is the only one of its kind. On Amazon today, the book lists at \$907.00!

Bee was a regular teacher at Young Harris. I learned how to catch a swarm from her. I follow her instructions to a "t" every time I go out and think of her as I spread my sheet under the swarm I am retrieving. I also took a class from her at YH in how to render old wax. This involved a stew pot, a hot plate, and an old pillow case (preferably flannel) to filter the wax.

When Bee left Georgia, she moved to Maine where she and Erin MacGregor Forbes worked together at Overland Apiaries. Bee bought a farm in Jefferson, Maine and had a bee yard there. She and Erin did some interesting work including a SARE grant that allowed them to study queen bees.

Bee is a writer and a storyteller and her moving response to my next question really stayed with me. I asked her what is the best thing that beekeeping has brought to

your life? She said, "A sense of the bigger picture in nature. Beekeeping is a gateway to the environment. When you understand bees, you understand the bigger connection to nature. Until we can recognize that we and the bees are just a part of nature, we miss the point that we are not in charge of things."

Bee sees beekeeping as a microcosm of the natural world in which we are all partners. But she says it is hard to convince people of that. We throw all kinds of chemicals into the hives. While she agrees that we have to treat for mites, she thinks we missed the boat long



ago. "Big grants were given to research labs by companies like Bayer where the research was on controlling the problem without a focus on the big picture," she said.

Most recently, Bee has worked for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective in West Virginia. Their mission as stated on their website is "to create economic opportunities for rural families. We help our members to learn the art, science, and business of earning a sustainable income through beekeeping." She loves to teach and her job includes training people of West Virginia and Virginia, many of them unemployed coal miners, to become entrepreneurs through beekeeping.

Her favorite season is "right now" when the collective beekeepers deliver their supers to be harvested. They weigh the supers ahead of the extraction and then after so the beekeeper knows exactly how much their bees have yielded in honey weight. The "Partners" as these entrepreneurs are called are delighted to receive the money their hard work has brought them. And of course, this brings joy to Bee.

We will get to hear all about the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective in one of her keynotes at the GBA Virtual Fall Conference and also she will be speaking on Beekeeping as a Super Power. I'm proud to have learned as much as I have from Cindy Bee. Join us to hear this legend in Georgia beekeeping at our Fall Conference.

WHITE CLOVER – Overlooked Beauty

– by Georgia P Zumwalt

White clover—it's still blooming! Come to think of it, I'm not even certain there's been a moment in the past twelve months it's not been blooming. It's true, our spring explosion of nectar producing flora has all but vanished until next year, but this beautiful creation is still producing. When compared to the abundance of the spring crop the numbers are diminished, but seeing them still blooming in my yard brings me (and my honey bees) joy.

White clover is a honey bee favorite, and because it grows all over my property without any assistance whatsoever, it's one of mine too. To be honest, I really never paid much attention to the clover flowers themselves until I started keeping honey bees (I was much more interested in finding one of those lucky four-leaf clovers!)...but, I have to say, when I finally put my glasses on and really studied this flower—or I should say, flower head—I became an admirer of its overlooked beauty.

If you look closely at the flower head, you'll see an abundance of creamy white to pale pink flowers looking as if they have their arms (or wings) outstretched to greet the arriving honey bees with a warm, delicate hug. No wonder the honey bees love them!

Next time you find yourself standing in a patch of white clover, kneel down a wee bit and truly take in the delightful floral charm of this plant. Who knows, you may be lucky and find that four-leaf clover, too!



Photo credit: Georgia P. Zumwalt



Photo credit: Holly Bayendor



WANTED:

A GBA Newsletter Editor ~

After almost three years of laying out and distributing *Spilling the Honey*, I feel it's time to step down, and encourage new talent to come aboard. Working with Kathy has been a pleasure, she is very organized and talented!

Please let me know if you'd be interested in putting the stories and photos together for our newsletter.

Thank you! Holly Bayendor
gbanewsletters@gmail.com or hollybayendor@yahoo.com

TELLING THE BEES

Telling the bees is a traditional European custom in which bees would be told of important events in their keeper's lives, such as births, marriages, or departures and returns in the household. If the custom was omitted or forgotten and the bees were not "put into mourning" then it was believed a penalty would be paid, such as the bees leaving their hive, stopping the production of honey, or dying.

Carl Edward Webb

Carl Edward Webb passed away Monday, July 6th, 2020. He fought cancer for 15 years.

Carl proudly served our country in WWII in the European Theater, as did several members of his family. It was in Germany that he met his first wife, Traudel and they were married until her death in 1996.

After leaving the service, he received his Bachelor degree from the University of North Carolina in forest management. Carl worked in Africa with the Uniroyal Rubber Company. After returning from Africa, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service for over 30 years. Upon retiring, he began keeping bees full time.

In 1998 he married Virginia Stephens and they expanded their beekeeping business to over 600 hives. Carl served as the president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association in 2000 and 2001. He and Virginia became charter members of the Russian Bee Breeders Association. Memorials can be made to the following beekeeping organizations that Carl and Virginia support.

Georgia Beekeepers Association
Paul Berry, Treasurer
In Memory of Carl Webb
1210 Box Springs Rd.
Box Springs, Ga. 31801



Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association, Inc.
Austin Smith, Treasurer
In Memory of Carl Webb
Smith Honey Farm
18 Honey Farm Lane
Petal, MS 39465



JM Sikes

JM was a fixture in the lives of Georgia beekeepers. He passed away on July 8, 2020. JM and his wife,

Frieda, were married for more than 57 years. He was the owner of the Richmond Hill Bee Company where he produced award-winning honey. He was also a commercial fisherman, catching shrimp, catfish, and crabbing. He would come home from fishing and he and Frieda would work the bees. He retired from fishing in 2004. He and Frieda prepared and shared their traditional shrimp boil at the GBA meeting in Moultrie and at every Young Harris Beekeeping Institute final dinner. While I didn't know him personally, I will always remember his generosity and his smile as he got the dinner ready.



SEPTEMBER: *Bee Plants*

When your bees are out looking for something to eat in September, they might be able to find these treats.

BUDDLEJA DAVIDII or **BUTTERFLY BUSH**

It is a deciduous shrub in the Loganiaceae family. It's a low pollen source and medium nectar source for honey bees but it blooms in August and September when the bees need it most. It's fast growing with arching shoots and gray/green leaves and grows 8-10 feet tall. The butterfly bush blooms for 2-3 weeks with fragrant white, purple or blue flowers.



Butterfly Bush (Above and Right)



IPOMEA PURPUREA or **MORNING GLORY**

The bees love it for both pollen and nectar. It has off white, medium sized pollen grains that are round with spines. The morning glory is an annual climber with colorful flowers that bloom for 4-5 weeks. This plant has tropical origins and comes from the Convolvulaceae family.



Morning Glory (Above and Right)



Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

THE VIRTUES OF A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Encourage your club members to come to the GBA Virtual Fall Conference. We are not only having a great two day conference, complete with a virtual honey show, but we are also offering a bonus after the actual conference. We will be recording the keynotes and the breakout sessions are pre-recorded. This means for two weeks after the meeting until October 11 all paid registrants will be able to view all of the talks on your own computer in your own time frame.

So: [REGISTER](#) and join us for the [GBA Virtual Fall Conference](#)

Testimonial from a GBA member:

Being a Gainesville resident, I was so very sorry that COVID was taking a bite out of the annual

meeting which I've enjoyed attending the past several years. And you are correct...far too many good things to hear about by far too many interesting people.

So, thank you in advance for planning to record those two "edible breakouts." They are the ones I had the most interest in...but felt that I needed to learn something new about the more technical subjects in competing time slots. The recording idea is FABULOUS!

This may be the best \$15 I've spent in a long, long time.

– Laura Nagel
Forsyth Beekeepers
Tri-County Beekeepers

ASK AUNT BEE!



Question from Priscilla Summers

I recently rescued a hive from the columns in front of a house, where the hive was happily going in and out of the column on a nice lady's front porch. We sawed open the column, and I used rubber bands to hold the wax pieces of comb to several frames. The hive proceeded to get rid of the rubber bands (there were about 10 dangling from the hive eventually) and now, when I peek inside, I see that there is just a mound of randomly placed, fallen comb in the space of about five frames and I cannot lift the frames out without ripping up all the comb.

Should I just leave the mess and hope that they will expand into the foundation provided on the other side of the brood box? They are just starting to draw out that comb.



Hey Priscilla,

First of all, thank you for your efforts to save the bees and relocate them to a new home.

It would be my recommendation that you pull those frames out that the comb has fallen from and replace them with foundation. If you don't the bees will just continue to draw comb on them, but they will do it in a way that you will never get those frames out.

I would recommend that on your next removal that you use larger rubber bands (#33) to put the comb in the frames. These are the wide ones like the post office uses. It takes the bees longer to chew them apart and therefore allows more time for them to attach the comb before it falls.

Hope this helps and good luck with your future removals.

– Bobby Chaisson
Georgia Bee Removal

The Beekeeper's Workbench:

WHERE IS MY HIVE TOOL?

– by *Ryun Forsman*

Here is something I've been working on. I got sick of dropping my hive tool, or setting it down during inspections and then trying to remember where I put it. So, I designed a pocket clip with a built in magnet to hold hive tools. It can go on any pocket. Just be mindful if you use it on your back pocket. Your truck seat (or your backside) may get torn up.



How to Attend a zoom Meeting

As you know, our GBA Virtual Fall Conference will be held on Zoom. Here in great detail are the ways to make Zoom work for you on a computer. If you use iPad or phone, the same options are available to you, but you may have to explore a little to find them.

1. You will get the Zoom link by email which will be sent to all the paid registrants of the GBA conference. The morning of the conference, click on the link. Then you have choices to make.
2. Views on your screen (upper right corner of your Zoom screen)
 - a. You can use Gallery view to see everyone in little quilt squares. The person speaking has a yellow line around their screen to help you find him/her
 - b. You can use Speaker view which means the person speaking occupies the main portion of the screen with the rest of the participants at the top.
 - c. There will be lots of people at this meeting - arrows on the side of the main window will show you the quilt squares of everyone else at the meeting. We expect between 200 and 300 people to be in attendance.
3. Share screen for speaker/president/leader of the meeting
 - a. You will not be able to share your screen
 - b. In most instances, the speaker/president/leader of the meeting will share his/her screen on which you'll see their slides or watch their movie.
 - c. When screen is shared, you see the shared screen with the person who shared the screen in a little box at the top. If you choose speaker view, you'll only see the speaker and have a less obstructed screen. If you choose gallery view, the speaker will be on top with a stack of a few people under the speaker.
4. Move your cursor at the bottom of your screen and you'll see lots of options.
 - a. Mute—on the far left is where your mic should be throughout the talk. The host can mute everyone. For our keynotes you will not have the choice to unmute until the talk is finished.
 - b. Start/stop video - this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon
 - c. The Chat button in the center of the bottom of the screen allows you to chat with "Everyone" or with a specific person. The drop-down window beside "Everyone" gives you a list of people and you can choose someone at the meeting with whom to have a private chat. This is a great way to put in questions for the speaker by directing a chat to Everyone or to the designated Co-Host
 - d. Reactions—allow you to give "applause" or a "thumbs up" to your speaker if you like something she/he says.
5. Breakouts: You can sign up for the breakout you want to attend on your registration form.
 - a. At the beginning of the breakout session, you will automatically find yourself in the room with the breakout speaker. (We push a special button!)
 - b. When it's time for the breakout to end, you will be whisked back into the main Zoom room with everyone else.

YOUR GBA ELECTION

– by Linda Tillman

This is an exciting election year. You will be voting for new officers and new directors. This year we elect a president and vice-president as well as three director positions. There are bios of each of the candidates in the last newsletter. However, the newsletter article wasn't clear as to who is running for which office. Here are the candidates who have stepped up for each office:

There is a write-in option in each category. GBA does not create a slate - we ask instead for people

to step up to run for offices. As you can see, many positions are running unopposed, but we asked in several newsletter articles for volunteers to run and did not get opposing takers to the candidates who have stepped up.

You'll notice that our GBA secretary is running for vice-president. If he is elected, the new president will appoint someone to fill the remainder of his term.

**For President:
Gina Gallucci**



**For Vice-President:
Derrick Fowler**



For Directors (we elect three):



**Director:
Bobby Chaisson**



**Director:
Brutz English**



**Co-Directors:
Kelley Campbell/Mike Connor**

(Note: Kelley and Mike are running jointly to share the position. Their position has one vote on the board)



You are able to vote for officers if you are a paid registrant of the GBA Virtual Fall Conference. The ballot will be sent to the registrants the week of the conference.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to run. This organization is dependent on volunteer effort. And thanks to all of you for registering and voting.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Clarks Hill Beekeepers

Even though we cannot meet in person, Clarks Hill Beekeepers have been meeting virtually through the help of GBA. Since bees do not care that we have a pandemic, beekeepers need to stay connected with other beekeepers in addition to the research and information available to us. We have had several excellent virtual meetings.

In June, Charles Phillips, retired Columbia County Extension agent and extremely knowledgeable about local beekeeping, spoke to our club. Charles' presentation on Georgia honey plants offered a month-by-month timeline of plants providing bee food. This gave us an idea of plants to watch for and possibly cultivate for our bees.

In July, Jamie Ellis, entomologist professor at the University of Florida, led a question and answer period. A variety of top-

ics were covered to include bee health, hive survival, varroa, and many more. Jamie's enthusiasm and passion for beekeeping inspires beekeepers to continue to educate themselves on all aspects of beekeeping. He encouraged beekeepers to visit the Honey Bee Health Coalition and his website through UF.

In August, GBA provided us with a pre-recorded seminar from Julia Mahood on tricks in beekeeping. Her graphically pleasing production included drawings and pictures related to the ideas presented. It was a treat to have the opportunity to view this presentation.

Thank you GBA, Linda Tillman, and Gina Gallucci for your help with these virtual meetings. Looking forward to the GBA Virtual Fall Conference!

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.



Jimmy Gatt

On September 15th from 7-9 pm, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association will convene their monthly meeting via Zoom online conferencing. The speaker will be Journeyman beekeeper and MABA Board member Jimmy Gatt. Nothing is more important to MABA than the safety of its members, and Gatt's talk, "Safety in the Bee Yard," will

highlight some of the dangers that go hand in hand with beekeeping and ways beekeepers can stay safe. Gatt is the admin of MABA's popular Facebook group "Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Mentoring and Exchange," which is a safe place for beekeepers to talk about beekeeping in the Metro Atlanta area. He has been keeping bees since 2017 and enjoys public speaking about the best things to plant for honey bees and native bees.

As always, a mentoring session will be held prior to the start of the regular meeting from 6:30 to 7 p.m. This is a great time for beekeepers to ask questions and get answers about any concerns in their bee yards.

West Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association monthly meeting and other activities are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19. All members are encouraged to continue to contact other members for beekeeping suggestions and

recommendations. We plan to host our annual short course on beekeeping November 7th, 2020 at the American Legion Post, Douglasville, Georgia. We will keep everyone posted as the date approaches. Continue to sanitize and be safe.

How to Apply for GBA License Plate Funds

GBA is bringing in a lot of money from the license plate sales and we want to use it across our GBA clubs and members to support educational purposes.

If you are an individual and want to apply for license plate funds, you must be a GBA member. If your club wants to

apply for license plate funds (PLEASE DO), all four of your officers (president, VP, secretary and treasurer) must be GBA members.

Here's how you apply:

[Click here and follow all of the instructions.](#)



CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF BEEKEEPING

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

WELCOME! GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS



2020 OFFICERS

President

Linda Tillman

Vice President

Gina Gallucci

Secretary

Derrick Fowler

Treasurer

Paul Berry

Newsletter Editors

Holly Bayendor &

Kathy Bourn

Past President

Mary Cahill Roberts

Webmaster

Harvest Hoffman

DIRECTORS

Jennifer Berry

Bobby Chaisson

Brutz English

David Logue

Steve Esau

Sophia Price

Bobby Torbush

Celebrate!

The Georgia Beekeepers Association is 100 years old this year and is 1000 members strong. We began as a small group of beekeepers meeting in Waycross, Georgia and are now a state-wide group offering two large conferences every year with almost fifty clubs across the state. We have programs in the prisons, offer training to established as well as junior beekeepers, and unite clubs in the various areas of the state through the work of our directors on the GBA Board. Cars around the state are sporting our honey bee license plate. Among our members are beginners, hobbyists, Master Beekeepers, sideliners, and commercial beekeepers alike. Welcome to our fall conference!

Thank you for “Zooming” in to join us.

These are unprecedented times and we welcome the opportunity to be creative in how we hold our conference. Meeting virtually is a way for us to have fun, learn a lot and stay healthy all at the same time. We want to keep our members, speakers, and guests as safe as possible.

Instructions for joining our Keynote and Breakout sessions

You will receive these instructions by email before the conference in plenty of time to be able to join in.

The Virtual Honey Shows

Our honey show committee decided to take on two virtual honey shows and you can enter them both. By registering for this conference, you can enter the GBA Honey Show and your instructions are in your confirmation email. You can also enter the GBA National Black Jar Contest by [clicking on this link](#).

Visit Our Vendors

Oh, of course you can't, but we will be sharing our vendors' information with you throughout the conference and hope you will find items to purchase online just as if you had been able to wander into their booths in the conference center.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:45 - 9:00 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:00 - 9:45 **KEYNOTE 1**

Jamie Ellis: WHAT IS KILLING OUR BEES (AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT)?

Beekeeping is harder than ever. Colony loss rates are high in many areas around the world. Old pests and pathogens continue to cause problems. New pests and pathogens threaten colony health. Herein, Dr. Ellis will discuss what is killing bees around the world and what can be done to reduce the losses.

9:50 - 10:00 BREAK- Visit Virtual Vendors

10:00 - 10:50 **BREAKOUT A** (see page 7 for details)

10:50 - 11:40 **KEYNOTE 2**

Cindy Bee: THE APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPING COLLECTIVE -

AN APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING IN POVERTY-STRICKEN COMMUNITIES

This talk discusses the efforts to connect the unemployed workforce of Appalachia with the power of beekeeping as a supplement for income. The approach is two-fold: teaching beekeeping for a source of income, and reforesting the sections of mountains devastated by coal mining.

11:40 - 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 - 1:50 **KEYNOTE 3**

David Tarpy: DIAGNOSING QUEEN PROBLEMS: IS IT THE QUEEN, THE COLONY, BOTH, OR NEITHER?!

Practical advice-based on empirical research-looking at different symptoms and attributing whether or not the problem is the queen's fault. A lesson in showing how we blame the queen way more often than it's actually her fault.

1:50 - 2:00 BREAK- Visit Virtual Vendors

2:00 - 2:50 **KEYNOTE 4**

Keith Delaplane: THIRTY YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP: RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN UGA AND GBA

A retrospective of the fruitful collaborations between GBA and UGA and the luminous personalities who made it possible.

2:50 - 3:10 **Honey Show Awards Announced**

3:15 - 3:30 Honey show video viewing with Brutz

3:30 - 3:45 Linda says "Good evening."



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:30 - 8:45 **VOTE** for President/Vice-President or visit vendors

8:45 - 9:00 Announcements & Door prizes

9:00 - 10:00 **GBA Business Meeting and Buzz Fund presentations**

Beekeeper of the Year Announced

10:00 - 10:10 **BREAK**- Visit Virtual Vendors

10:10 - 11:00 **KEYNOTE 5**

Cindy Bee: BEEKEEPING AS A SUPER POWER - SOME TIPS AND TRICKS ALONG THE WAY
There are a few things I've learned that make things more salient, or just plain make things easier. Doing things that work frees us to listen to that call to keep bees, that call we keep responding to despite all the challenges.

11:05 - 11:55 **BREAKOUT B** (see page 7 for details)

12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00 - 1:50 **KEYNOTE 6**

Jamie Ellis: THE BIRDS AND THE BEES: WELL, JUST THE BEES
Individual honey bees and honey bee colonies both reproduce. In this lecture, you will learn about the mating and reproductive habits of queen and drone honey bees. The reproduction of individual bees will be placed in a larger context with that of colony-level reproduction, a feat accomplished by the swarm.

1:50 - 2:35 **KEYNOTE 7**

David Tarp: HONEY BEES: MYTHOLOGY, RELIGION, WARFARE, AND POLITICS
This is an interesting confluence of how honey bees have been woven into society from ancient times to the modern day. Many cultures have, and still do, consider honey bees as otherworldly. Hear tales and stories about bees that have arisen over the centuries. Moreover, you'll be surprised how bees have been used, both directly and indirectly, in ancient and modern warfare!

2:35 - 2:45 **BREAK** - Visit Virtual Vendors

2:45 - 3:30 **KEYNOTE 8**

Virginia Webb: GBA - OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
Why did 65 men and women want to organize a beekeeping association for Georgia beekeepers? A lot has happened since they organized.

3:30 - 3:35 Linda says "Good-bye."



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Keith Delaplane, Ph.D has served as Professor of Entomology and director of the UGA Honey Bee Program since January 1990. He has worked with numerous GBA members over the years on a variety of research and education projects.



Jamie Ellis, Ph.D is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the department of entomology and nematology at the University of Florida. He has a BS degree in biology from the University of Georgia (USA) and a PhD in entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa.



Cindy Bee is a Master Beekeeper and grew up in Tennessee keeping bees with her father. She has dedicated herself to beekeeping for over 50 years. Currently she runs the Virginia division of the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective and mentors over 40 beekeepers. Teaching the importance of beekeeping is a life-long passion.



David Tarpy, Ph.D is Professor of Entomology at North Carolina State University since 2003. He maintains a web site to disseminate information about honey bees, spearheads extension projects, and launched the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES) – an online resource for knowledge about bees. His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens to improve the health of queens and their colonies.



Virginia Webb is a third generation beekeeper. She and her late husband Carl Webb started MtnHoney, a commercial beekeeping operation in Habersham County Georgia. Virginia has taught beekeeping and beeswax products for years. She has served GBA in multiple ways over the years.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



Bethany Beck is a graduate of Covenant College with a bachelor's in Environmental Biology.



Jennifer Berry is the research professional for the UGA Honey Bee Lab. Her passions include varroa and SHB research, educating the public about the importance of pollinators, and teaching beekeeping. She also operates Honey Pond Farm where she sells quality nucleus colonies and teaches classes.



Paul Berry started keeping bees in 1988, influenced by a neighbor who was a beekeeper. He took a break after a few years due to lack of time but restarted in 2002. Paul attained the level of Master Beekeeper after going through the UGA Master Beekeeping Program at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.



Rebecca Bycott is writer, educator and strategic communications consultant based in Washington, D.C., who specializes in helping businesses and organizations develop meaningful connections with their audiences through digital engagement. Her creative campaigns have supported the U.S. Department of State, higher education, nonprofits and companies worldwide. She has advised the GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee.



Brutz English is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and an internationally certified honey judge. He is Senior Presiding Judge and Director of Welsh Honey Judge Training Program at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute. Brutz chairs the GBA Honey Show Committee. He is a small-scale commercial honey producer and packer. He says he serves as consigliere to the Queen bee!



Keith Fielder is a certified Welsh honey judge and a Georgia Master Beekeeper. He has taught beekeeping around the world. He is a frequent presenter at GBA, EAS, and Young Harris. He is the county extension coordinator for Putnam County. Keith is a sideline beekeeper and he and his wife Roseanne market honey and beeswax products. He was President of GBA in 2006 - 2007.



Julia Mahood is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and has kept bees since 2004. A past president of MABA, she was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2018.



Karen Palmer has been a beekeeper since 2012 and owner of Honey Please. She focuses on bee removals, nucs and honey. The "Queen bee" of around 75 colonies at her farm, she has found creative ways to recycle materials brought home from work and reusing it in her beekeeping.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

At every GBA conference, we offer breakouts to cover important needs. We have a breakout for ongoing honey judge certification (Honey Show Cookery); one for support for local clubs (Creating a Buzz using Social Media); and others with a practical beekeeping focus.

SESSION A

FRIDAY SESSION A • 10:00 -10:50

Beekeeping on the Cheap • Karen Palmer

For people who enjoy DIY projects and getting the most for their money beekeeping doesn't have to be expensive and can help you be creative. Bees can be kept in a variety of boxes and materials. You'll learn how to be resourceful and cut costs while still being practical.

The art of splitting hives and manipulating queens • Paul Berry

We will discuss increasing beehives in an apiary by splitting hives, when to do it and how to do it. Integral with splitting hives is the manipulation of queens in the process. We will discuss how to handle the queen when doing splits. Suggestions on how to find her and what to do with her.

Candy Making with Honey • Bethany Beck

Learn to make Lollipops using your honey. These make wonderful gifts. Wrap them in beeswax wraps for an extra touch.

Planting Pollinator Smorgasbords • Jennifer Berry

Thankfully, there seems to be a trend towards planting more forage for pollinators. Maybe the day where acres of grass (which needs to be mowed, weeded, sprayed, fertilized, sprayed again and watered), are a thing of the past. This session will open up discussion about what plants work for our region. Let's help each other figure out what best to feed those that feed us!



SESSION B

SATURDAY SESSION B • 11:05 -11:55

Honey Show Cookery • Brutz English

Learn about the ins and outs of preparing and exhibiting baked goods, cookery, and other food items made with honey. We will cover recipes, ingredients, conversions, and substitutions. We will discuss variables that can affect the finished product, including ingredient selection, techniques, honey varieties, and even the weather. We will also cover typical judging criteria and honey show rules.

Creating a Buzz About Beekeeping Through Social Media • Rebecca Bycott

Does your club use social media to share activities and updates? Are you sometimes unsure if you're reaching anyone? You're not alone! The good news? With a few creative strategies in place, you can create a buzz, build community and reach potential members. This talk will give you some go-to resources and ideas to try.

Making Show Quality Creamed Honey • Keith Fielder

Creamed honey is a value added product every bee keeper should know how to make. This program details the Dyce method of making creamed honey which is simple and provides consistent results.

Three invaders in 30 years: Three pests, their impacts, and why so different • Keith Delaplane

In the 30 years I've worked at UGA I've witnessed the introduction of tracheal mites, Varroa mites, and small hive beetles. The biology and economic impacts of these three are markedly different, and this talk will show how natural history affects the virulence of any pest and our options in managing it.

Drones for Drones • Julia Mahood

Learn all about the bad boys of the hive and how to find their stomping grounds- drone congregation areas - using a mechanical drone!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! [CLICK HERE.](#)



Spilling *The* Honey

OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

HOLLY BAYENDOR & KATHY BOURN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Georgia Beekeepers Association,

Thank you to our members for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president through 2022. It is an honor and privilege to have the trust of my fellow members to lead this outstanding educational association. My heart is filled with joy thinking of continuing to work with a large team of very fine beekeepers who share their knowledge and energy with all of us, and the general public. I am proud to call you my friends.

GBA is so fortunate to have such a group of dedicated and principled volunteers; we are in an enviable position of having such great financial resources, with which we are able to continue to better educate beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike. We can all be very proud of the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

Our Past-President, Linda Tillman, has done an exemplary job in creating and updating our procedures and software, in developing more positions of leadership and team members, and with the continued growth of professionalism. I shall attempt to fill her shoes.

Our Fall 2020 conference by Zoom went amazingly well and a group of us learned all kinds of things that didn't have anything to do with honey bees! Planning for an online conference is daunting especially because we were starting from scratch. We owe our ever-lasting thanks to Jonathan Hayes and Linda Tillman for all the investigations, programming and implementation to get it all done.

Thank you to our keynote speakers, Jamie Ellis, Cindy Bee, David Tarp, Keith Delaplane, and Virginia Webb who did live remote talks on cue. Our breakout speakers, Keith Delaplane, Bethany Beck, Brutz English Karen Palmer, Paul Berry, Jennifer Berry, Becca Bycott, Keith Fielder and Julia Mahood all recorded their talks and answered questions live.

Thank you to our sponsors and vendors who joined us or contributed to the online vendor space. Mary Cahill-Roberts and Brutz English created a virtual Honey Show with our first National Black Jar contest! This is unprecedented. The pandemic has made us realize how much we really enjoy being together and gave us the chance to see each other a bit. This is what we did to celebrate the Georgia Beekeepers Association's 100 Year Anniversary!

Our 100-year anniversary GBA tote bags and t-shirts will be waiting for us next year for our in-person meeting in Gainesville September 2021. We are organizing the spring on-line conference now to be held in February, 19th and 20th, 2021. Please save these dates and read your *Spilling the Honey* newsletter for more information.

It is with great appreciation, I ask you to please be ready to say yes to a request, learn a skill to ensure a task gets done, and share your knowledge and thoughts for a continuing growing GBA!

With Gratitude,
Gina Gallucci



Our First GBA Virtual Conference

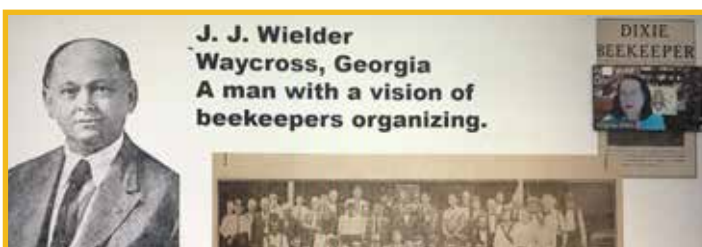
We all wondered...what in the world would a virtual beekeeping conference be like? We're used to meeting together, hearing great speakers, getting door prizes and having a great honey show. Well...it turns out that a virtual conference can be all that and more with a lot of hard work and ingenuity by GBA leaders and members.

The GBA fall conference had it all. For a mere \$15, beekeepers from across the country could join Georgians to hear highly sought after speakers. Jamie Ellis jdellis@ufl.edu talked about what is killing our honey bees and looked at the reality of colony loss. Cindy Bee shared her experience with the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective <https://appheadwaters.org/bee-keeping/> and told us how beekeeping is a superpower if you let it all work. Dave Tarpy david_tarpy@ncsu.edu helped us with our queen problems and Keith Delaplane kdd@uga.edu showed us what thirty years of working together can accomplish. Virginia Webb <https://www.mtnhoney.com/about.htm> gave us a look at our first 100 years as Georgia's Beekeeping Association.

We were also treated to extras like Eddie Gwaltney's beautiful piano playing, a Yoga session with Gina Gallucci, the chance to grieve together our loss of fellow beekeepers and friends, and an opportunity to honor our best beekeepers like Bob Binnie with a lifetime GBA membership and our 2020 Beekeeper of the Year Linda Tillman.

Every moment was filled with catchy beekeeping cartoons, videos from our beekeeping supply sponsors, and stories of how our Buzz Fund advances beekeeping educational efforts.

344 people registered for this virtual conference with 221 attending and 116 were not GBA members, some from as far away as Alaska. On the next page is just a sample of your thoughts about our first GBA virtual conference.



(continued on next page)

What You Thought About Our First GBA Virtual Conference



BEST CONFERENCE EVER – *Marilynn Parker*

Truly wonderful first day of GBA conference! Thanks to everyone – planners, communications folks, and presenters...just GREAT! – *Margaret Shaw*

This was a great way to attend the conference. I'm not usually able to because of family health issues. Enjoyed the day.
– *William Mead*

Above left: Gina Gallucci takes the gavel as newly elected President. Below left: Karen Palmer's talk, Beekeeping on the Cheap. Below: Mann Lake displays their products, along with other vendors.

I can't imagine a better virtual conference, although I have a feeling the Spring will be just that. From Linda's confident leadership, to the technical miracle that Jonathan pulled off, to Bobby's PCH-style Beekeeper of the Year Award, to Gina's yoga class, to Brutz's honey show presentation, to Virginia's touching tribute to Carl and her dad, to Cindy Bee's soul-touching presentation on Saturday, every aspect of this event was truly memorable. And we got Free Bird to boot. Thank you! – *Eddie Gwaltney*



Enjoyed the conference.

Missed looking at bee equipment and talking to vendors, and mostly the fellowship of so many people anxious to share their experiences. But the thing I missed most was the in person presentation of Beekeeper of the year. Linda is such a wonderful person.

Great joy and I will zoom in the Spring.
– *Lloyd Vautrot*

Thank you to the entire team for setting a very high bar for a Virtual Conference. Congratulations!
– *David Logue*



Fantastic day from a New Mexico beekeeper
– *Kathy Grassel*

(continued on next page)

What You Thought About Our First GBA Virtual Conference – (cont'd)



Brutz English talks honey!

Thank you for your work, kindness and enthusiasm Linda. – Robert Thanepohn

Virginia – great presentation. I encourage GBA leadership to use some of GBA's surplus funds to create a virtual GBA archive...generations unborn will thank you. – Joel Arogeti

What a long way you have taken this club Linda! Thank you! – Cindy Bee



A slide from David Tarpy's talk.

This Tennessee beekeeper has truly enjoyed this conference! It was very well done! – Susan Quall

You could put together a guide that could be shared with the other associations in the country. You really did something special here so I hope the process is captured for yourself and any other group that would like to host a virtual conference. – Lawrence Lee (Greenbrier, TN)

Loved the conference. Thank all of you for including us beekeepers from everywhere else. Can't wait to see what you come up with next. – Dana Fisher



Bob Binnie received Honorary GBA Lifetime Membership.

THAT WAS WONDERFUL!!!

We really loved having the privilege of hearing so many diverse and talented speakers. The enthusiasm with which they all shared their presentations was exactly what we needed. Being so socially distanced from the world...it was great spending two days focused on making the future better! – Glenn and Rosalind Severt



(continued on next page)

Beekeeper of the Year: LINDA TILLMAN



Upper left: Linda announces the winner of Beekeeper of the Year (Yes, Linda – it's YOU!)

Upper right: Bobby Chaisson delivers the BOY certificate to Linda.

Lower left: Linda displays her engraved hive tool. "2020 GBA Beekeeper of the Year."

Lower right: Linda with her certificate (created by Julia Mahood), while standing next to her horizontal hive.

Congratulations, Linda!

Fall Honey Show Wrap Up

– by Brutz English

The 2020 Fall Honey & Beeswax Show and the 1st Annual National Black Jar Contest are in the bag, and what a pair of honey shows we had! Between the two shows we had over 200 exhibits from nearly 120 individuals. We had multiple exhibits submitted in all classes, including 148 entries from 25 different states in the National Black Jar Contest! We believed, and you proved, a virtual honey show could work! Props to Jay Parsons for taking home Best in Show in the 2020 Honey & Beeswax Show (it was Jay's third Best in Show win), and to Nicholas Weaver for taking the Grand Prize in the 1st Annual National Black Jar Contest! Be sure to check out the list of all the winners in this newsletter.

It took a lot of creativity and a lot of work by a lot of people to make these honey shows come off this year. I want to thank the Honey Show Committee members who put this show together: Mary Cahill-Roberts, Marilyn Parker, Barbara Phillips, Gail Dean, and Katie Goodman all helped sort out the details of how to pull this year's honey shows off. Thanks to the Welsh honey judges who braved the pandemic and traveled to judge our honey shows: Keith Fielder, Cindy Hodges, Kara Bassett, Steve Nofs, and Rodner Garner. Thank you to Katie Goodman who serves as our Show Secretary year after year, for keeping everyone in line in the heat of the honey shows. Thank you to Kara Bassett for taking tons of pictures and video at the shows, and to Jonathan Hayes for editing the video presentation for the conference. Thank you to the Lamar County Schools Board of Education for allowing us the use of their facilities free of charge. Special thanks to the GBA Board of Directors who had faith in the Honey Show Committee's "dreaming big." We hope we made everyone proud. Finally, thank you to all of the exhibitors who made the extra effort this year to participate in, and support the honey shows. These shows would not have been successful without each and every one of you!

We are already working on the Spring Artisan Show, so get that mead racked, knock the flour off of those recipe cards, and dig out your art and craft supplies. We are going to find a way! We hope to see you all (or at least your exhibits) at the 2021 Artisan Show this coming February!



GBA 2020 FALL CONFERENCE



GBA 2020 Honey & Beeswax Show Official Results

Light Extracted Honey

- 1st Paul Cerpovicz —**STATE CHAMPION**
- 2nd Cory Momany
- 3rd Marilyn Parker
- VHC Mary Lacksen

Medium Extracted Honey

- 3rd Bobby Thanepohn
- VHC Charlie Scott
- HC Scott Family Farm
- C Cory Momany

Dark Extracted Honey

- 1st Marilyn Parker —**STATE CHAMPION**
- VHC Georgia Zumwalt

Beeswax Block

- 1st Michael Conner —**STATE CHAMPION**
- C Pam Wiseup

Beeswax Bars

- 1st Michael Conner —**STATE CHAMPION**
- 2nd Georgia Zumwalt
- 3rd Nancy Simpson
- HC Pam Wiseup

Beeswax Candles

- 1st Pam Wiseup —**STATE CHAMPION**
- 2nd Marilyn Parker
- 3rd Georgia Zumwalt



Creamed Honey

- C Jay Parsons

Comb Honey

- 1st Jay Parsons —**STATE CHAMPION**

Black Jar

- 1st Madeleine Schwab —**STATE CHAMPION**



BEST ALL-AROUND HONEY

Jay Parsons (Section Comb Honey)

BEST ALL-AROUND BEESWAX ITEM

Michael Conner (Beeswax Block)

BEST IN SHOW

Jay Parsons (Section Comb Honey)



National Black Jar Honey Contest Top Ten Finalists

- George Baroody, BarooBee LLC
- Sean Driscoll, Jaffrey, NH
- Melinda Knolle, Mystic Fox Naturals
- Karen Miller, Marietta, GA
- Leslie Rogers, Sharpsburg, GA
- Daniel Shea, Marion, NC
- Rob Tuttle, Cleveland, GA
- Marc Wagner, Musella, GA
- Nicholas Weaver, Bee Downtown
- Virginia Webb, Mtn. Honey



OFFICIALS

Honey Judges:

- Keith Fielder (SrWHJ)
- Kara Bassett (SrWHJ)

Show Secretaries:

- Katie Goodman
- Brutz English (SrWHJ)

[Note: VHC = Very Highly Commendable,
HC = Highly Commendable, C = Commendable]

LEGENDS OF GEORGIA BEEKEEPING

Keith Fielder

– by Kevin McCraney



I first met Keith nearly twenty years ago in his position as the Putnam County Extension Agent when I lived in Eatonton, GA. Keith has always been active in the community and I got to know him through my children's involvement with 4-H. Keith was teaching beekeeping classes to the youth in Putnam. This was long before I was "stung" with the beekeeping fever!

Keith caught the bug (pun intended) when he was around six years old working hives with his grandfather. He has always been fascinated by honey bees and had his own hives as a teenager. Keith tells me he's had beehives most of his life off and on as he moved around but has been doing it now full time for over 25 years.

Keith is part of the elite group of Georgia Master Beekeepers. He is a sideline beekeeper with around 30 colonies which provide extracted, chunk and comb honey. He also produces specialty honeys like sourwood, cotton and blackberry. The honey along with beeswax products are marketed locally by Keith's wife Rose Anne. Beekeeping also allows Keith to indulge his hobby of wood-working by making most of his own wooden ware.

It's not hard to tell where Keith lives. His driveway is decorated with beehives. Although these hives are empty and for decoration only, Keith tells the story of some recent visitors jokingly naming it "La avenida de la muerte" roughly translated means "The Avenue of Death!"

Keith holds a wealth of knowledge from his experiences and is a regular speaker at clubs across the state and at national and international levels. You will always see him at the GBA events, and he is usually judging the honey competition. Keith holds the distinct honor of being a senior Welsh honey judge and the honor of being the first U.S. Welsh honey judge to serve as a judges' steward at the Great Yorkshire Honey Show in Harrogate, England in 2008. He has been quoted on apicultural matters by media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Atlanta Magazine* and the *British Broadcasting Company*. Keith serves on the staff of the annual Young Harris – UGA Beekeeping Institute in Young Harris, Georgia, and is the Vice Chair of the



Georgia Farm Bureau Honey bee commodity committee. Keith is a steward of the beekeeping community.

Keith has served the Georgia Beekeepers Association first as secretary then as president during 2006-2007, past president 2007-2008, and was named Beekeeper of the Year in 2009. Keith Fielder is truly a Legend of Georgia Beekeeping.

The Beekeeper's Workbench:

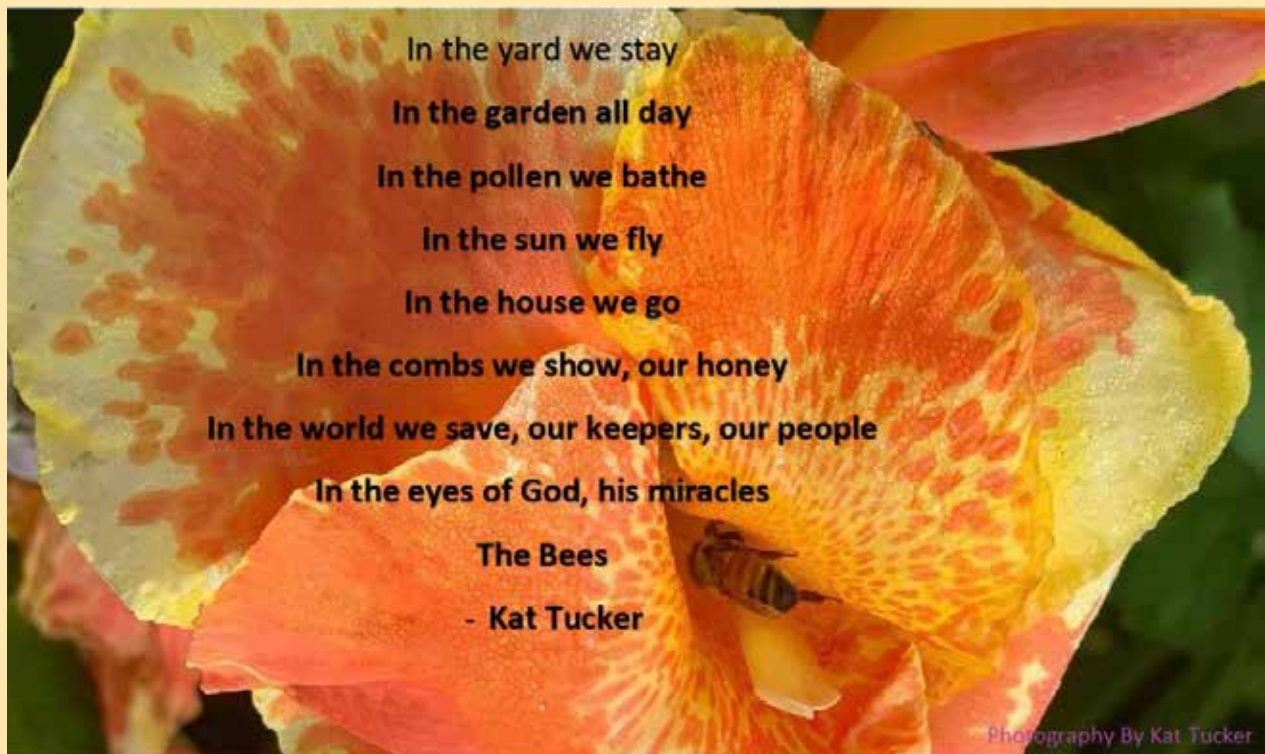
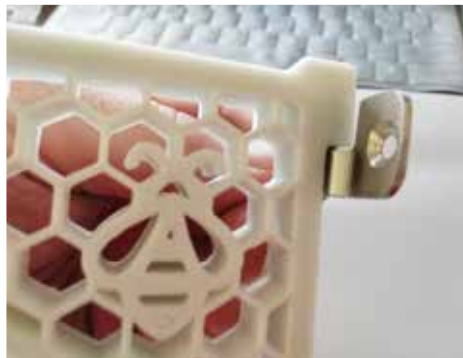
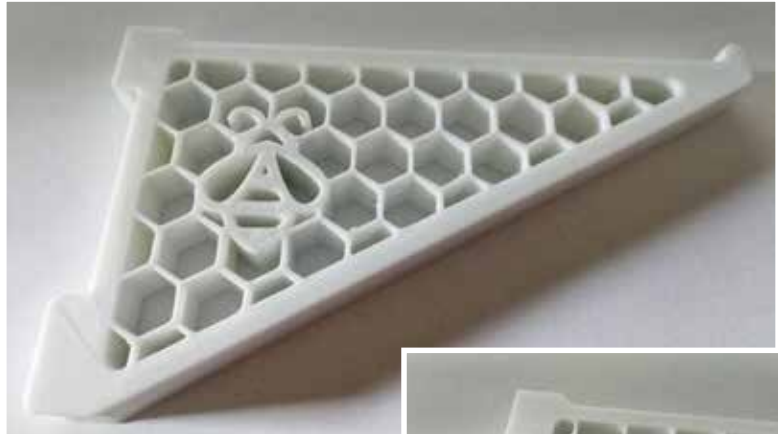
FRAME HOLDERS FOR ANY HIVE

– by *Ryun Forsman*

Ok, I think I've designed frame holders that you can use for your Layens, Horizontal, Warre or Top Bar hives.

I manufactured regular pocket sized frame rests with my 3D printer but beekeepers with alternative hives need something different.

The idea goes like this. The rests have metal brackets that would be screwed into the side or front of the hive, or even a cart if you like. Then my frame holders have a slot that hooks onto the brackets to hold your frames. You can space them out at any size to suit any custom size frames you use. A set of the frame holders would have four or six brackets that can be installed on multiple hives.



Photography By Kat Tucker

– by *Kat Tucker, President
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club*

YOUR GBA OFFICERS

New officers and email addresses you may need.

GBA OFFICERS

President: Gina Gallucci: gabeepresident@gmail.com

Vice-President: Derrick Fowler: gabeevp@gmail.com

Past President: Linda Tillman: gbapastpresident@gmail.com

Secretary: Marilynn Parker: gabeeseecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Paul Berry: gabeetreasurer@gmail.com

Many of you have been corresponding with Linda Tillman at the president's email for four years. It is time to change her contact information in your contact list to the email above, or for any GBA concerns email linda.tillman@gmail.com for personal email.

DIRECTORS

Bobby Chaisson bobby@gabeeremoval.com

Brutz English brutzenglish@gmail.com

Kelley Campbell/Mike Conner kellygirl53@hotmail.com mike.a.conner@gmail.com

Sophia Price BeeGirl30747@outlook.com

David Logue jdlogue13@gmail.com

Bobby Torbush torbushspringsfarm@gmail.com

GBA BOARD

Newsletter Editors:
Peter Helfrich/Kathy Bourn gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Webmaster:
Harvest Hoffman webmaster@gabeekeeping.com

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR

Jennifer Berry jbee@uga.edu



The Freezer – A Beekeeper’s Friend

Many beekeepers consider their freezer one of their best storage and maintenance solutions. Here are just a few reasons why:

- When cleaning up frames, entrance reducers, queen excluders, put them in the freezer for a few hours. The old wax and propolis scraps off more easily for clean storage until the next use.
- The freezer is a great place to store your unextracted and capped frames of honey along with any cut comb honey. It helps to wrap the honey frames in plastic wrap to keep them from sticking together. Wrapping the frames also cuts down on potential condensation when they are thawed. Frozen honey in honeycomb can be thawed out with no change in its appearance or loss of quality.
- Your collected pollen and propolis can have an extended life in your friend, the freezer.
- Use a freezer as a stop over for your drawn comb frames. Leave the frames in the freezer for a day or so before storing them in order to kill any wax moth eggs/larva and any roaming small hive beetles. Even the frames with no comb on them can hide pests in the grooves. A nice deep freeze takes care of that problem.
- It’s advised to check your freezer with a reliable thermometer. To kill both species of wax moths you want to aim for between 20°F for 4.5 hours or 5°F for 2 hours.
- The type of freezer doesn’t matter (chest or upright) as long as it fits your needs. If you want to store a full super at a time, make sure your boxes will fit.

A word of caution: Be gentle with the drawn comb when you pull it out of the freezer. Frozen beeswax is very brittle.



FOUND!

A *new* GBA Newsletter Editor ~

It is with great pleasure that I announce Mr. Peter Helfrich will be taking my place as GBA Newsletter Editor. He is an experienced graphic designer with magazine experience, as well as being a beekeeper and member of MABA and GBA.

As for me, it’s been an honor and a pleasure to serve GBA.

All the best! Holly Bayendor
hollybayendor@yahoo.com



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the [Wufoo form](#) (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

SOWEGA Beekeepers

Children and adults around Albany, Georgia learned about the life of a honey bee while attending the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club booth at the Water, Wings and Wildlife Festival at The Flint River-Quarium. Three club members had honey for sale including 13-year-old Will Fricks who raises his own bees with the help of his grandfather. Will received his first hive as a Christmas gift and created his own labels.

Over 200 people visited the event. The SBC booth was next to the butterfly tent so we got to see the butterfly release at the end of the day. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who came out and helped us make this day special!



Photo credits: James Fitzgerald, Monte McDonald and Kat Tucker.

Tri-County Beekeepers

We have been invited to meet with Northeast Georgia Beekeepers at their October meeting to hear Dan Long speak on Trees for Bees. Dan will also have trees and shrubs available for purchase that are great for our local bees.

The information is as follows:
Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 pm
555 Monroe St., Clarkesville, GA
Behind Woods Furniture on the Square

We will still be holding our own Tri-County meeting on October 14.

Tri-State Beekeepers

We have been largely unable to meet during the pandemic, but our August meeting was a Zoom event hosted by Linda Tillman, who also presented a delightful program on treatment-free beekeeping. Our October meeting will be an on-site visit to Forester Farms and Apiary, owned by our group's founder and past president, Derick Forester.

West Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association face to face meetings are postponed until further notice. In the meantime, members can participate in our monthly Zoom meetings. The next one will be held October 26th, 2020 at 6:50 pm. Watch your emails for notifications. All members are encouraged to continue to communicate with other members for beekeeping suggestions and recommendations. We will keep members posted on upcoming events. Continue to be safe.

How to Apply for GBA License Plate Funds

GBA is bringing in a lot of money from the license plate sales and we want to use it across our GBA clubs and members to support educational purposes.

If you are an individual and want to apply for license plate funds, you must be a GBA member. If your club wants to

apply for license plate funds (PLEASE DO), all four of your officers (president, VP, secretary and treasurer) must be GBA members.

Here's how you apply:
[Click here and follow all of the instructions.](#)



Spilling *The* Honey

NOVEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is the month in which Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful and is the beginning of the season of holidays. My list of people and things for whom I am thankful, and to whom I am full of gratitude, looks like this:

A wonderful group of leaders who took their roles willingly and seriously. For Linda Tillman, who is teaching and mentoring me and others on how best to use all our abilities and leading us into virtual education using Zoom. For Derrick Fowler who said yes to running for vice president. For Bobby Chassion who calls me with offers to help with everything all the time and does whatever is asked. For Jonathan Hayes for becoming our Zoom committee chair and learning and training us on how to use this software to GBA's best advantage. For Marilynn Parker who said yes to being appointed our secretary. For Brutz English for his ideas and referrals of who we should ask to take on new roles and organizing our virtual honey show which is being emulated in other states. For Mary Cahill-Roberts for her leadership in the honey show and for representing us in EAS. For Julia Mahood for her conference planning, marketing and design savvy.

For Kathy Bourn and Holly Bayendor for their professionalism in this newsletter each month. For Peter Helfrich for his saying yes to stepping in on the newsletter team. For Karen Palmer who said yes to joining the Zoom committee and works with gusto. For Harvest Hoffman who maintains the GBA website. For Ben Bruce who said yes to being our Georgia Farm Bureau liaison, and for Barry Hart who suggested he be asked.

For Sophia Price for chairing the License Plate Proceeds Committee, and for her team of Katie Goodman, Bob Binnie, Linda Tillman, Derrick Fowler, and Paul Berry. And I am thankful for Paul Berry being our treasurer, and for Luke Ellerman who said yes to learning how to be our treasurer. Of course, we are all very thankful for all the people who bought our *Save the Honey Bee* plate and for the proceeds GBA has received. There is much gratitude for the interesting projects which this money helped to create.

I am very grateful for those of you who make GBA a pleasure and a fun place to do good together across the great state of Georgia. GBA is all about the education of each other and our non-beekeeping neighbors around the state.

I am thankful to you all for saying yes to a new duty or role. I am grateful for you and the bees which have brought me so many beautiful relationships and deep friendships.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



How to Attend a Zoom Meeting

As you know, our GBA Virtual Fall Conference was held on Zoom and many clubs are holding club meetings on Zoom. Here in great detail are the ways to make Zoom work for you on a computer. If you use iPad or phone, the same options are available to you, but you may have to explore a little to find them.

1. You will receive the Zoom link by email when your club or committee sets up a meeting. Click the link and follow the prompts to arrive in your Zoom meeting.

2. Views on your screen (upper right corner of your Zoom screen)

- You can use **Gallery View** to see everyone in little quilt squares. The person speaking has a yellow line around their screen to help you find him/her.



- You can use **Speaker View**, which means the person speaking occupies the main portion of the screen with the rest of the participants at the top.



- Arrows on the side of the main window will show you the quilt squares of everyone else at the meeting.

3. Share screen for speaker/president/leader of the meeting



- You will *not* be able to share your screen
- In most instances, the speaker/president/leader of the meeting will share his/her screen on which you'll see their slides or watch their movie.

- When the screen is shared, you see the shared screen with the person who shared the screen in a little box at the top. If you choose speaker view, you'll only see the speaker and have a less obstructed screen. If you choose gallery view, the speaker will be on top with a stack of a few people under the speaker.

4. Move your cursor at the bottom of your screen and you'll see lots of options.

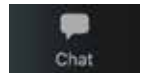
- **Mute** - on the far left is where your mic should be throughout the talk. The host can mute everyone. For our keynotes you will not have the choice to unmute until the talk is finished.



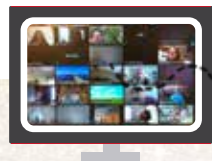
- **Start/Stop Video** – this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon



- **The Chat Button** in the center of the bottom of the screen allows you to chat with "Everyone" or with a specific person. The drop-down window beside "Everyone" gives you a list of people and you can choose someone at the meeting with whom to have a private chat. This is a great way to put in questions for the speaker by directing a chat to Everyone or to the designated Co-Host



- **Reactions** allow you to give "applause" or a "thumbs up" to your speaker if you like something she/he says. 🍷



You Can Zooooooom, Too!

The GBA Zoom Committee has made it easier than ever to take advantage of the GBA Zoom accounts for your meetings. Please fill out The GBA Zoom Account Reservation Form that meets your needs:

- **LOCAL CLUB MEETING:** If you are a president or program chair planning a local club meeting with a speaker, with Q&A, to watch a GBA library video, or just to get together: **please click here to reserve.**
- **GBA DIRECTOR:** If you are planning to meet with the club presidents of the local clubs in your assigned area: **please click here to reserve.**
- **GBA COMMITTEE:** If you want to schedule a meeting of a GBA Committee: **please click here to reserve.**

The Howard School is Still Buzzing

by **Joseph A. Walsh CCC-SLP**
The Howard School

Thanks to a generous grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, the Howard School (on Atlanta's west side) was able to establish a small student apiary. The two surviving colonies — we lost one last February — will soon be entering their second winter. The high-school student members of the Howard HiveMind Bee Club are currently contemplating whether a good strategy might be to combine the two to have one stronger colony with a better shot at overwintering intact. *Opinion is divided!*

A big Howard shout-out to Julia Mahood, who came to help us undo some of the damage from COVID-related neglect incurred while school was closed last spring and summer. Since then we have returned to campus for live and in-person classes, and our Bee Clubbers have live-streamed a virtual hive inspection for our younger students and brought a portable observation hive in from the apiary to give a high-school Biology class a chance to observe some live honeybees. 🐝



Left unattended while the facility was closed due to COVID-19, The Howard School's hives were found to be highly propolized on a recent inspection. Their bees have brought in a wide variety — and sizable quantity — of pollen!



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If you are an individual and want to apply for license plate funds, you must be a GBA member. If your club wants to apply for license plate funds (PLEASE DO), all four of your officers (president, VP, secretary and treasurer) must be GBA members.

Here's how you apply:

Click [here](#) and follow all of the instructions. 🐝



Katie Goodman

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Katie Goodman does a phenomenal job as our GBA social media chairperson. Katie started beekeeping on March 20, 2015. Katie loves to garden and plant lots of different heirloom tomato seeds. She wanted bees to help her pollinate the tomatoes and didn't find out until after she began beekeeping that tomatoes are pollinated by bumble bees and not honey bees! Right after she got her first hive, she joined the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Club.

At one bee meeting, Carl Webb stood up and said that he needed help that year. She knew about Carl and Virginia and how they were famous in the honey bee world, but that didn't stop Katie. She said to herself, "I don't have much going on; I'll go help this guy." And although she was nervous to be interviewed by Carl, he liked her and hired her on the spot. She attributes her success as a beekeeper to her time with Carl, who was her mentor until he passed away in July.

She said, "I loved his passion. He loved bees more than anyone I have ever known." He instilled in her his love of bees.

Early in her beekeeping, someone in Toccoa got her number and called her to remove bees from a house they were renovating. This house was in a bad section of town, an area known for drugs and dangerous behavior. Katie's significant other, Glenn, did not want her to go to this area. Katie was determined, though, and when the owners said she could take the bees and did not need to repair the removal, Katie was all in. She decided to go at 4 a.m., when the temperature was cooler. She drove up and found, to her surprise, that the owner of the house next door was sitting on his porch. She announced loudly, "I'm Katie Goodman and I'm a beekeeper here to remove the bees, in case you wanted to know." The guy said absolutely nothing and just stared at her. Katie removed the bees in record time, drove away as fast as she could, and lived to tell the tale!

Katie has been the social media chair for GBA for almost three years. She had already been managing two other pages, one for a local cannery and one for a friend who had died, when she was asked to begin to manage our Facebook page. She thought to herself, "What's one more?" and took the job!

Katie throws herself into the job, checking the page literally morning, noon and night. She responds as quickly as she can to posts. She tries to put up information about things we are doing in GBA. She sees Facebook as a way to disseminate information about our great organization. Some clubs use FB as their chief source of interaction. That is not the way GBA approaches the Facebook page. We think of our page as a source of information and Katie works to convey to the public what we are doing as an organization.



When asked how GBA members can help with the Facebook page, Katie said, "Please encourage them to send me original content." If you, as an individual, post on our FB page, it shows up in the "Community" section which, while a fun place to have a discussion, is not in the main Facebook feed. If you send material to Katie, then she can post it in the main GBA section. By original material she means something that is not all over Facebook already.

So send Katie photos of your honey and an interesting comment about your crop; send her a photo of your bees who came into your house on the back of your dog and now need to be returned to the outdoors; send her a photo of something important happening in your bee club. When she gets original material like that, she posts it to the GBA Facebook page for our members to enjoy.

Since Katie began managing the page, we have gone from 4000 page likes to almost 10,000! She has done a remarkable job and has taken it on as a regular responsibility. We are lucky to have Katie Goodman as a GBA volunteer. 🍯

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THE GRAM

Katie has her hands full with Facebook, and would be delighted to see someone step up and take charge of **GBA's postings on Instagram**. That person would need already to have experience with Instagram. Just email Katie at gabeekeepersfacebook@gmail.com or send her an instant message on the **GBA Facebook page**.





The Beekeeper's Workbench: A LONG LANGSTROTH

by **Fred and Elise Binder**
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

To build this Long Langstroth Hive, we followed **Dr Leo Sharashkin's plans for the hive body.**

We built the hive body, but did not make a lid or bottom board from the plans. **We used the screened bottom board plans.**

We used the **ventilated roof and cover board plans.**

Other than the five nuc frames with which we started, we are using foundationless frames in the hive. The bees worked hard to fill the hive with comb, honey and brood. We found that when we installed the nuc the bees seemed aggressive, but they settled down after a few days. We have an amazing brood pattern with almost no empty cells. We added frames every once in a while. It is super easy to open

the hive without disturbing the bees much and there is very little carrying of boxes. We keep empty frames in the back section for placing in the hive when needed. We love this hive so far! 🐝



We used three coats of primer and then painted two coats of outdoor enamel in blue and yellow. My wife sketched our favorite Studio Ghibli characters and honey bees on the sides and painted them with acrylic paint. We sprayed the paint with a clear coat to protect it. We added rope to hold the roof open.



We put a gabled roof on top of the ventilated roof and let it overhang on the sides and in front by 2".



We used the ventilated roof and cover board plans.



Our only problem was that we couldn't go into the store to select the wood (due to COVID) and the wood we received was cupped. So as you can see bees can squeeze into the empty section and we will have to figure out how to stop the escape artists.



We installed our bees and they are happily going in and out of the Princess Mononoke hive entrance.



We bought oil pans for the hive bottom.

FLOWERS OF THE FALL FLOW

Photos by Kathy Bourn



The fall honey flow in Georgia may not be as spectacular and as abundant as the spring flow, but the girls are still out there working hard for the honey. Some of their favorites are:

- 1. lantana, 2. asters, 3. cosmos, 4. sunflowers, 5. goldenrod,
- 6. camellias, and 7. marigolds. ☺





GBA LIFETIME MEMBER:

Bob Binnie



by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

The Georgia Beekeepers Association awards Lifetime Membership to members who have “given exemplary service” to our organization. Bob Binnie is more deserving of this than anyone I know.

Bob first joined GBA in 1994 and went to his first GBA conference at the old bee lab at UGA. Keith Delaplane was working hard to make it all go right and there were so many people that it was hard to fit everyone into the small bee lab. Bob noted that a lot of people at that meeting are no longer with us.

Once he arrived on GBA’s doorstep, he began working hard for Georgia’s beekeepers and he has never stopped. Bob served as the president of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers for three years. He is a member of both that club and the Macon County beekeepers just across the Georgia line in North Carolina. He frequently speaks to those two clubs and to bee clubs all over Georgia.

Bob and his wife, Suzette, came to Georgia in 1991 after years in South Dakota. As you all may remember from his delightful talk about his life in beekeeping at the Augusta meeting this past spring, he went all in for beekeeping as a full time career. He put everything on the line to buy the building space he now has in Lakemont, Georgia. He called in all the favors he



could think of, maxed out his credit, and boldly entered this venture.

He built a business as a commercial beekeeper. Now his business includes sales of large amounts of honey to big corporations like Kroger, selling bees to other beekeepers – sometimes to local clubs – and also in large quantities across the country, and selling honey, beekeeping equipment and bee gifts from his large retail

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GBA LIFETIME MEMBER: Bob Binnie

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store. He carries many varieties of honey but he loves sourwood the best. Since Bob has in past years sent bees to pollinate fields in South Dakota, I asked him what his very best tasting honey ever has been. He said it was cabbage blossom honey that he harvested in 1984! The honey, he said, tasted like marshmallows and he's never tasted anything like this ever again.

Bob offers tours of his store and the processing facility in the back of the store to bee clubs who love to come. He hosts many clubs there every year and the tours get constant positive reviews of the experience.

His staff members at Blue Ridge Honey are friendly and warm, just like Bob. I think this is so true that I asked him if he tries to hire people who are kind and generous just like he is. He laughed and essentially said that people who are not like that generally don't stay around long. Tommy Mealer, one of his friendly beekeeping staff, who was standing with Bob, laughed and agreed.

Bob was named Beekeeper of the Year for GBA in 2003. Then, as now, he was giving GBA and beekeeping his all.

Bob thinks service is an essential part of his beekeeping. From that desire, he served as GBA's president in 2007-2008. He had been asked many times to run for GBA President. This time he finally said yes because Keith Fielder talked him into it. GBA was all the greater for that decision.

Among other accomplishments as president, he held an exciting conference that year at the Rabun County Civic Center. Talks and breakouts were held both inside and outside, with lots of variety in the offerings. The inside of the civic center was filled with tables of vendors throughout the room. The honey show was outstanding and the effort put into the conference was evident.

Generally a rather shy person, Bob saw serving as president as a way of pushing himself outside his comfort zone. He did enough standing up in front of crowds during that time that he does not find it quite as daunting now. To push himself outside of his comfort zone these days, **he has developed a YouTube channel.** He has put up more than 48 videos, sharing his beekeeping knowledge with all of us. Most of his videos have way more than 6,000 views. He is now being invited to speak to clubs all over the country and the world.

Bob has given many talks at GBA conferences but the one I remember most is when we had a last minute cancellation and he packed up all kinds of hive equipment at the last minute and drove his gear down to the conference to fill in for us. He continues to serve GBA now in his role as a member of the license plate proceeds committee where he helps to make decisions about how to spend the GBA license plate funds.

When he spoke to GBA in February, I had the privilege of eating dinner with him. Bob is a success in his commercial



To see Bob being awarded a lifetime membership, [click here](#).



beekeeping and retail business. I asked him what was in it for him to stay involved with GBA. He said, "You know, I want to give back." Bob is such a generous man and a friend to beekeeping and beekeepers all over Georgia.

Congratulations to Bob for receiving Lifetime Membership in the Georgia Beekeepers Association. 🍯

THE SOURWOOD FLOW

by Katherine Lacksen Mahlberg

BeeCo Apiaries is a small, woman-owned and operated beekeeping business located in Sparta, Georgia, that produces and sells queens, five frame nucleus hives, and honey. I work alongside my mom, Mary Lacksen, who has served as past president of the local beekeeping club and is heavily involved in other regional and statewide organizations.

Personally, one of the silver linings of COVID-19 has been time and space in my schedule to work alongside my mother who started her beekeeping journey thirteen years ago. She will be the first to tell you that she is still learning, and as a beekeeper that's a given. However, her thirteen years of experience has given her tremendous knowledge and intuition that she generously shares with me and so many other new and experienced beekeepers.

This summer was our fourth consecutive year of moving hives up to the Blue Ridge mountains for the sourwood flow. The process of moving bees back and forth from the Blue Ridge Mountains to our apiary in middle Georgia and extracting the sourwood honey is always an adventure — one that Mother Nature controls. The weather, timing of the sourwood bloom, and health of the bees are all key factors. We know that none of this would be possible without helpful folks at both ends of the road who make this a smooth process. From the secure site and location in North Carolina for the bees, to the many helping hands that load, unload, and pull supers from the hives, to the strong arms that help move the very heavy five gallon buckets of honey, it definitely takes a team to make this happen. Collaboration, synchronization, and teamwork... as always we turn to our bees for inspiration and wisdom.

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THE SOURWOOD FLOW

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Moving 26 Hives From Middle Georgia To North Carolina

We are able to move 26 hives from middle Georgia to North Carolina using a custom trailer outfitted specifically for moving bee hives. Our friend and beekeeping partner, Bruce Morgan purchased it almost fifteen years ago from Bobby Colson, club president of both the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers and the Altamaha Beekeepers Association. The trailer was previously used as a pollination trailer in the watermelon fields of Florida. It's configured to hold twenty six hives securely and permanently so the hives never have to be moved from the trailer during their time pollinating, or in our case, producing honey. We carefully load hives and winch them down with ratchet straps. The hive entrances are closed up earlier in the morning with foam window piping insulation to ensure the bees are in the hive prior to moving. You could definitely feel the weight and pull of the trailer as we navigated the back country roads and traveled straight through without any stops to our final destination – a cattle pasture outside Franklin, North Carolina. There, we met the landowner who generously allowed us to keep the hives on his property. We took the trailer and backed it into the back corner of his pasture where the bees spent the next six weeks. We brought all of the equipment to set up an electric fence, but thankfully we were able to tie into his already hot perimeter fence around the pasture saving us the headache of having to set up our battery and solar panel system. Within thirty minutes everything was unhitched, fenced in, and ready to go.

Mom and I did a final pass through, pulling the gray, foam plugs from the hive entrances. The bees were eager to get out after being plugged for six plus hours. Thankfully, the

journey was seamless and the weather ideal. No rain and cooler temperatures, so we didn't have to worry about them overheating on the drive – a valid concern when doing anything in Georgia during the summer months. Before leaving, we took a few minutes to admire the scenic view and friendly pasture mates – the curious cows who were smelling and licking mom's truck. Thankfully, the electric fence successfully deterred any curious cow and more specifically, black bears, during the six weeks of the sourwood flow.

Harvesting 1,000 lbs. Of Sourwood Honey

Once the hives were transported back to Georgia in early August, we opened them hoping to see signs of white wax indicating fresh, capped sourwood honey. This year, we opted to use the uncapping roller because it's less invasive to the wax comb structure, thus the bees can quickly repair the frame for more honey storage. In addition, since the honey bees don't have to completely replace and rebuild all of the wax when we put the frames back on the hive, they can direct more energy and resources towards tending to the queen and frames of brood, pollen, and honey. Each of these is critical to having a strong, healthy hive going into the winter months. After we uncapped a frame, we placed it in the extractor that Bruce Morgan allows us to use at Morgan Apiaries. When it was all said and done, we ended up with 17 five gallon buckets of sourwood honey, or roughly 1,000 pounds. When we finished extracting, we placed the harvested frames back into the supers and put them out in the bee yard for a few days. There, the bees cleaned out the remaining bits of honey before we store the supers away until next spring when it's time to do it all over again. 🐝

FUN FACT:
BeeCo's Sourwood honey was awarded "Very Highly Commendable" for the Light Extracted Honey Category during the GBA Virtual Honey Show.



The Versatility of the Honey Bee Tongue

Do they lap up nectar or use suction to get their sweets? For years, it was thought that honey bees performed a version of the lapping action that dogs and cats do. With the help of high-speed video, scientists now see that honey bees can change from lapping up nectar to sucking it up.

It turns out that the honey bee tongue can work in different ways and switch back and forth depending on the viscosity of the nectar (or sugar syrup). Researchers found that bees' tongues are so sensitive that "they switch at the exact point you would expect, to get the best reward for the energy invested," said Jianing Wu, an engineering and biophysics



specialist, at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China.

For the full *New York Times* story on this research, and to see a slow motion video of the honey bee tongue in action, [click here.](#) 🍯



Meter Bees

Dale Richter snapped these pictures during a bee removal from a water meter in Valdosta, GA.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the Wufoo form (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers

Each January, the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association stages an amazing one-day **"Introduction to Beekeeping and Honey Bees" Short Course**. For its 2021 edition, MABA will be taking their Short Course online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Offered via Zoom at a discounted rate of \$75, the event will take place on **January 30th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Registration includes a one-year membership in the *Georgia beekeeping club of the attendee's choice*, plus an additional \$10 donation to that club.

Participants will receive expert instruction from an amazing panel of leaders in the beekeeping community. The course will cover everything a prospective beekeeper needs to know to get started with honey bees. Breakout sessions will allow smaller groups to ask questions and get answers during lunch with an experienced beekeeper, a popular staple of past Short Courses. All registrants will receive a beekeeping goody bag that includes a copy of Dr. Keith Delaplane's indispensable *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book, lists of equipment suppliers, beeswax lip balm, honey and much more. Additionally, during the spring and summer months, hands-on experience with live bees will be available to all Short Course participants through MABA's hive inspection

program. Hive inspections are also offered online.

Since new beekeepers typically set-up hives in the spring, MABA holds its beekeeping primer in January to give new hobbyists time to order bees and equipment and prepare their sites for hives. Anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees can attend -- even if a hive is not in your immediate future!

To register for the course, visit: memberplanet.com/s/mababc/retreatregistration_44_1_1_1

For additional information, email: MABAShortCourse@gmail.com 🐝

Dr. Keith Delaplane, UGA Professor of Entomology will be the featured speaker at Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's November meeting, **Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m.** The meeting will be held online via Zoom. Dr. Delaplane will be discussing the latest news and research from the university's Honey Bee Program. As always, a brief mentoring session precedes the MABA meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Appalachian Beekeepers

On October 8th, the Appalachian Beekeepers held our meeting at **Waldmet Cellars, a local Meadery/Tap Room**. We explored the various options offered in mead, draught, growlers, herbal tea and shrubs. An informative talk was shared on the sustainability of mead using honey, sorghum syrup and local herbs.

Last month, Vickie Champlin, president of The Appalachian Beekeepers, sold the honey from our teaching apiary at the Talking Rock Nature Preserve with a good response. 🐝





Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we close this very unusual and most trying of years, please know that our own Georgia Beekeepers Association is progressing along beautifully. The GBA license plate proceeds committee is working well to process requests for funds generated by the sales of our Save the Honey Bee license plate. We are glad to welcome new volunteers into committees to increase the sharing of tasks and other GBA undertakings. We are working to help all the local associations use our Zoom accounts for monthly meetings, board meetings and short courses to continue educating and sharing beekeeping knowledge during these unprecedented times.

There are many advantages of GBA membership, including our two great conferences in person or online, having world class speakers that most local clubs can't afford, and sharing with our neighbors across the state via this wonderful newsletter.

As we celebrate the holidays, remember gift ideas like giving a Save the Honey Bee license plate, a year's membership to GBA, or a paid registration to our upcoming spring conference.

The spring meeting will be on Saturday, February 20th online using Zoom. Watch your email soon for registration information. Note to local presidents: the board meeting will be the week before on Saturday, February 13th from 10am - 12pm.

I wish you and all your loved ones a very happy and healthy holiday season and a beautiful new year!

With much gratitude for you and GBA,

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Please save
the date!





How to Attend a Zoom Meeting

As you know, our GBA Virtual Fall Conference was held on Zoom and many clubs are holding club meetings on Zoom. Here in great detail are the ways to make Zoom work for you on a computer. If you use iPad or phone, the same options are available to you, but you may have to explore a little to find them.

1. You will receive the Zoom link by email when your club or committee sets up a meeting. Click the link and follow the prompts to arrive in your Zoom meeting.

2. Views on your screen (upper right corner of your Zoom screen)

- You can use **Gallery View** to see everyone in little quilt squares. The person speaking has a yellow line around their screen to help you find him/her.



- You can use **Speaker View**, which means the person speaking occupies the main portion of the screen with the rest of the participants at the top.



- Arrows on the side of the main window will show you the quilt squares of everyone else at the meeting.

3. Share screen for speaker/president/leader of the meeting



- You will *not* be able to share your screen
- In most instances, the speaker/president/leader of the meeting will share his/her screen on which you'll see their slides or watch their movie.

• When the screen is shared, you see the shared screen with the person who shared the screen in a little box at the top. If you choose speaker view, you'll only see the speaker and have a less obstructed screen. If you choose gallery view, the speaker will be on top with a stack of a few people under the speaker.

4. Move your cursor at the bottom of your screen and you'll see lots of options.

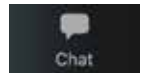
- **Mute** - on the far left is where your mic should be throughout the talk. The host can mute everyone. For our keynotes you will not have the choice to unmute until the talk is finished.



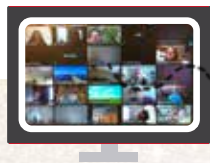
- **Start/Stop Video** – this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon



- **The Chat Button** in the center of the bottom of the screen allows you to chat with "Everyone" or with a specific person. The drop-down window beside "Everyone" gives you a list of people and you can choose someone at the meeting with whom to have a private chat. This is a great way to put in questions for the speaker by directing a chat to Everyone or to the designated Co-Host



- **Reactions** allow you to give "applause" or a "thumbs up" to your speaker if you like something she/he says. 🍷



You Can Zooooooom, Too!

The GBA Zoom Committee has made it easier than ever to take advantage of the GBA Zoom accounts for your meetings. Please fill out The GBA Zoom Account Reservation Form that meets your needs:

- **LOCAL CLUB MEETING:** If you are a president or program chair planning a local club meeting with a speaker, with Q&A, to watch a GBA library video, or just to get together: **please click here to reserve.**
- **GBA DIRECTOR:** If you are planning to meet with the club presidents of the local clubs in your assigned area: **please click here to reserve.**
- **GBA COMMITTEE:** If you want to schedule a meeting of a GBA Committee: **please click here to reserve.**

THE HYBRID MEETING:

A New Way for Clubs During COVID

by *Linda Tillman*



With vaccines on the horizon and people wishing to be together, the hybrid meeting is the next step. What is a hybrid meeting? In the time of COVID-19, a hybrid meeting is one in which some of the club members are present in person, while others join using Zoom from their homes! Our GBA Zoom Committee is here to help make it happen for you.

What does a hybrid meeting look like? Ideally, the people who come in person are wearing masks and sitting six feet apart. The rest of the membership joins via a Zoom call. The club can request a Z-kit from the GBA Zoom Committee to make this happen for your club meetings.

How does the Z-kit work? The Z-kit includes a mini-iPad, a tripod, and a wireless microphone. The in-person people set the mini-iPad up on the tripod and focus on the speaker. The iPad is connected to Zoom, hosted by the GBA Zoom committee. If the club has a guest speaker or is using a video from the GBA library, the iPad transmits the program to the Zoom participant club members. If the president or someone else is speaking, the iPad transmits that to the

Zoom participants. Someone in the in-person group must be responsible for making sure the iPad on the tripod is pointing in the right direction!

How do you get the Z-kit? The Zoom Committee will mail it to your president. Use it for your meetings going forward. License plate proceeds funds are paying for these Z-kits to promote ongoing education in our bee clubs across the state.

What if your meeting place doesn't have available internet? Since you need the internet to connect to Zoom, hopefully a generous club member can use his/her phone as a hotspot to allow the Zoom to happen. The Z-kit will only work with an internet connection.

We are invested in your being able to continue meeting, and the hybrid meeting will be an ideal way to go forward until everyone is vaccinated against COVID-19. 🐝

.....
To find out more about how to get a Z-kit, contact Jonathan Hayes, Lead Zoom Committee, (GBAzoom4@gmail.com)

BUZZOOM!

As the newest member of the GBA Zoom committee, I am excited to be clubbing again (pun intended). I have been missing club-hopping for good bee speakers. I am naturally eager to be a part of and keep this team going. My own club was no longer meeting and I was already starting to attend new bee meetings. The 2020 fall GBA conference had me itching to get back to beekeeping. Jonathan Hayes became chair of the Zoom committee after the conference to manage the three zoom accounts and continue to help clubs get back to meeting. GBA has also started a virtual library of videos for clubs to use at virtual and hybrid meetings in place of a speaker. The Zoom Committee is one of the reasons I am excited to be a part of the GBA and what it has to offer its members and bee clubs throughout Georgia.



by *Karen Palmer*

My first mission was to get my favorite bee club, Lake Country Beekeepers Association, back meeting again. I called each of the officers to ask if they would be willing to allow me to host their club on Zoom. With permission from the club presidents, I invited the members to the Tri-county Beekeepers' Zoom meeting so they could experience a format that might work for LCBA. The Tri-County Beekeepers club has been Zooming since COVID-19 started and has successfully moved into a hybrid-style meeting where club members can choose to attend physically, or choose to attend from home. I hoped this would give my club the boost they needed to get going again.

In November, I also had the pleasure of hosting Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Zoom meeting where we watched a video from the GBA library (and then accidentally got to hear my YouTube abs workout when I forgot to mute my mic and close the tab after sharing my screen)! I've hosted Henry County which has used Zoom since March. I've also hosted Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, a club which has continued its regular meetings on Zoom. Many other clubs meet on Zoom and I hope to get a chance to host those as well. I am having so much fun meeting people on Zoom and talking about bees.

The GBA Zoom account is available for any GBA club who wants to meet, but hasn't been able to yet. Meetings can be scheduled on a per month basis, but no monthly commitment is necessary. You can find the Zoom meeting request form at this link. After we set up your meetings,

it's as easy as copy, paste, and send an email. For many, technology can be daunting, and it may seem as if Zoom just adds an extra level of complication. No way! The GBA Zoom committee is here to make it as easy as possible for clubs to meet. 🐝

LEARN MORE:

If you would like more info on how to get started using GBA's Zoom account please email Karen Palmer at GBAzoom3@gmail.com

Lee Arrendale Prison Program Success

by **Julia Mahood**

GBA Prison Program Committee Chair

I'm pleased to report that despite all the lockdowns and quarantines this year, six ladies at the Lee Arrendale State Prison passed the Georgia Certified Beekeeper test in November. It took a lot of persistence to get enough time in the hives, but these women were determined to complete the program and they received great scores on the test!

In a year with so many programs shut down, it was very inspiring to see that the administration at LASP made sure the bees on the prison grounds were cared for and the students were able to safely attend enough classes (wearing masks and social distancing) to be able to take the test. Unfortunately, testing for Journeyman and Master Beekeeper was not available this year, but the women studying for those tests are patient and hopeful for 2021.

The program at Lee Arrendale wouldn't be successful without the enthusiasm and energy of my fellow volunteers, David Hollomon and Virginia Webb. 🍯



Photo by Kelly Kline

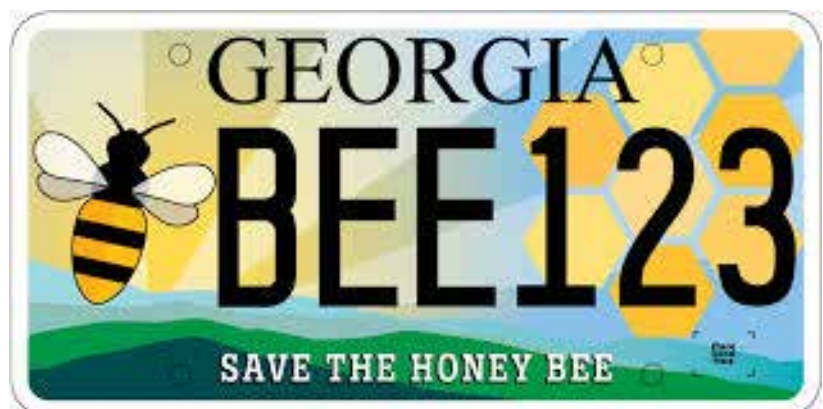
How to Apply for **GBA License Plate Funds**

GBA is bringing in a lot of money from the license plate sales and we want to use it across our GBA clubs and members to support educational purposes.

If you are an individual and want to apply for license plate funds, you must be a GBA member. If your club wants to apply for license plate funds (PLEASE DO), all four of your officers (president, VP, secretary and treasurer) must be GBA members.

Here's how you apply:

Click here and follow all of the instructions. 🍯



Beating the Sugar Syrup Blues

by **Julia Mahood**

Everyone says don't feed your bees sugar syrup when you want to take honey from them. But they don't tell you how to know what's syrup and what's honey in the comb.

Here's a simple trick that came from Dean Stiglitz, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping*. When you mix your syrup up, just add a couple drops of food coloring. The color blue works well because that's not a color normally found in the combs. This way you can tell where the bees are putting the syrup. It will show up in the comb as green where the bees have mixed it with the yellow honey. This is especially useful if you harvest your honey a frame at a time. 🍯



Photos by Julia Mahood



Please Update Your Club's Meeting Information

Due to the pandemic, *Spilling The Honey* hasn't been running our usual chart showing the meeting information from your clubs. In January, we'll be starting the new year off with updated information about how and where your club is getting together.

Please fill out this form from the GBA website. It will give us your current president's contact information as of January 2021. That person will receive an email asking for each month's speaker and topic along with the meeting location and time. Please note under the location banner if the meeting is virtual, in person or hybrid. Also put under the speaker/topic banner if the speaker will be in-person or virtual. 🍯

Let us know what's buzzing with you!

Please continue to share your stories and photos with us. We appreciate your articles and updates on all your club activities. Thanks for taking the time to contribute to *Spilling the Honey!*



Kathy Bourn



Peter Helfrich

– Your Editors
gbanewletters@gmail.com

SPRING ARTISAN SHOW IS ON!

by **Brutz English**
GBA Director and Honey Show Committee

The 2021 GBA Artisan Show will be held on **Saturday, February 6th** at the Lamar County High School (Cafeteria, #1 Trojan Way, Barnesville, GA 30204).

This show is going to be far more like our traditional honey shows than was the fall honey and beeswax show. GBA members will be able to submit entries either in person, via proxy, or by mail/shipping. Exhibitors who wish to submit exhibits in person or by proxy may do so either the morning of the show or the evening before. **Exhibits submitted via mail or shipping must be received by Friday, February 5th.**

Complete rules for the 2021 GBA Artisan Show can be found on the GBA website at: <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Georgia/honeyShows>. 🍯



Jonathan Hayes

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

When the GBA Fall Zoom meeting started, you may have noticed a less-familiar face sitting in front of the GBA logo and running the technical aspects of the meeting. That man is Jonathan Hayes, an enthusiastic GBA volunteer.

Jonathan has been keeping bees for seven or eight years, but it wasn't really his idea. One day, near Mother's Day, his wife Amanda suggested to him that as the father of four kids, he was supposed to provide a Mother's Day gift and that year she wanted bees for her present. "Bees?" said Jonathan, "I don't want bees!" But the present wasn't for him and soon he found himself on the way to Milledgeville to buy a nuc of bees. When they arrived, Amanda wouldn't get out of the car. She said she thought she might be allergic to bees. So Jonathan got the bees and they took them home. They have "lived and breathed bees ever since." Amanda, by the way, is very into the bees and into hive products and never worried another moment about her "allergy" to them.

Jonathan has four kids: Gracie (15), Aiden (12), Ethelle (8), and Clara (5) and one child-sized bee suit. Aiden is the one who participates in the actual keeping of the bees. The others tend to "stand in the wrong spot" where they get stung, so they prefer to keep their distance from the actual bees, although they like tasting honey and helping with hive products. Gracie particularly likes making candles and all of them like to taste the honey.

Beekeeping also dove-tailed quite nicely into Jonathan's ability as a woodworker. He learned from his dad how to work with the basics of house structure so he does all the home repairs. It was just a quick jump to make bee boxes and bee equipment. He makes inner covers and can really make any part of the hive. He does find it rather difficult to make a queen cage because it's hard to hold the thing in place while he is working on it.

Jonathan has also developed a gizmo to melt his wax involving a wallpaper remover that provides steam heat and a turkey fryer with a pour spout in which he melts the wax. The wax melts well because the steam provides a low and even heat.

Jonathan, currently President of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, has served his club in several capacities. He was a director for two years, vice-president for two years and is completing his second year as president. He took on the vice president office because nobody else volunteered. He saw volunteering for these offices as an opportunity to expand the programs and speakers provided to the club. He also enjoys



Jonathan Hayes in front of Mission Control for the GBA 2020 Online Fall Conference



Jonathan inspects one of his hives.

creating structure for the club. He has worked to make clear guidelines for some of the procedures in his club.

As he is ending his term as president, he feels good that he has done his part. Now, it's time to have new ideas and energy. He has also enjoyed meeting and getting to know everyone. Being a club officer is a lot of work. He has had to find the club speakers, organize the directors' meetings, and preside over the meetings. As a person who wasn't particularly comfortable with public speaking, presiding over meetings has pushed him to grow and he is now much more at ease in that role.

Because Jonathan is very tuned into the advantages of using
(continued on next page)

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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technology, he often (before COVID-19) had his speakers present in person to the club and put the talk on Facebook Live for his club members who might be unable to attend the in-person meetings. In addition, Jonathan works at Robins Air Force base in Warner Robins in graphics design and technology. He had lots of experience as a volunteer at his church working with videos as well as PowerPoint. Thus, Jonathan was the ideal person to be the producer of the first GBA online Fall Conference.

GBA is so lucky that Jonathan said yes. He created a brand for our presentations, using the 100th year logo and edited all of the videos of keynote and breakout speakers. Then he coordinated the entire conference from a Mission Control-type set-up on his home desk. Jonathan said that the most challenging part was “to make sure it all went OK - it was so new to us and untested.” He wanted to make sure the program flowed smoothly with no long gaps when people would lose interest.

Jonathan was quite excited leading up to the conference. “We put so much prep work into it and that really made a difference,” he said. Jonathan enjoyed thinking through all the possible scenarios and figuring out backup plans for things that might go wrong. And at the back of his mind the whole time was the looming question: what if the Zoom call dropped off and we would need to get everyone back to the Zoom meeting?

One of his favorite parts of the conference was the presentation of Beekeeper of the Year. He was in on the plot to present the award to Linda in person. So he was nervous about the whole thing happening smoothly and his responsibility in helping that to happen. And he was concerned about what would happen afterward. Would Linda be able to continue her role chairing the business meeting? To his relief, that all went well.

After the conference, Jonathan took on the volunteer role of Chair of the GBA Zoom Committee. There are three Zoom accounts, and he has organized and created a system to keep up with all of the club usage and to coordinate with the three people who manage the accounts. Jonathan thinks having these Zoom accounts for GBA clubs to use is awesome. “It allows the clubs that might not have the money to subscribe to Zoom themselves to continue meeting during this time when we can’t meet face to face.” He also sees the opportunity that the Zoom accounts will provide after COVID to invite speakers from far away. Jonathan has enjoyed seeing how all the clubs have used the Zoom accounts: to hold club board meetings; to hold local president meetings with their GBA director, to present short courses in beekeeping, and even to hold hive inspections. He also likes that this whole thing is member-led. GBA saw a need and provided it for our clubs.



Above: Jonathan with a honey show prize (left); Jonathan's son Aiden with a swarm (right).

Jonathan is again going to produce the February online meeting for GBA. He looks forward to editing videos, working on the logo again, and working with people like Julia Mahood, whose design abilities he admires.

Jonathan likes to volunteer. If he sees a need, knows he has the appropriate skill set, and has the time to commit, he stands up and says he can do it. “Volunteering involves stepping out of your comfort zone and doing something where you will grow. And I like being a part of the beekeeping community and meeting a lot more people,” he says. While he might have heard of people in the beekeeping community, Jonathan notes that you really get to know someone when you work with them. He also likes to feel a sense of accomplishment when he gets things done. He is careful to note that Amanda, his wife, is totally behind him and he could do none of the volunteering that he does without her support.

Jonathan, whose birthday is on Christmas day, is the kind of volunteer who is truly a gift to GBA on Christmas and every other day. 🍯

Learn More...

American Bee Journal's December 2020 edition contains an article by Jonathan Hayes and Linda Tillman on the behind-the-scenes work that went into producing GBA's Fall Virtual Conference.

The Beekeeper's Workbench:



TRYING A LAYENS HIVE

by *Kathleen Bourn*

Okay, so your bees are tucked in for the winter, you've repaired all your boxes (at least well enough to last another year), and you've put in your orders to the bee suppliers (for stuff you don't really need, but you've rationalized that you just have to have). Now, you're looking for a winter beekeeping project...

I decided I needed the challenge of making my own Layens hive. You've probably seen these hives, also known as horizontal hives, associated with Dr. Leo Sharashkin in Missouri. They are widely used in Russia and his website offers free plans to anyone wanting to try this hive style.

This idea started the way most of my ideas do: I had extra materials around that needed to be used. I had some 4' and 2' pieces of 2x6 pine, just enough for two Layens hives.

The box is pretty basic. The Layens hives use 2X lumber and the wood I had happened to be tongue and groove so I glued them together and screwed the corners. The frames, however, were a bear to make. It helps a lot to make or buy a Layens frame jig. Unless you're a better woodworker than I am, I suggest you buy the frames. I made mine as foundationless frames so they have a dowel in the center. I did deviate from the plans by adding handles to the frames and the box. Handles just make beekeeping life better.

The roof is vented on the ends and has some foam insulation covered with 1/8" plywood on the inside to keep the bees from chewing on it. I covered it with metal and roof coating. There is also a follower board and two entrances if you want to split the hive into two colonies.

I've had the Layens hive for two years now. The first year, I baited it and some bees moved in and started building comb but then left. The second year, I put bees in it and so far they're doing well. The beautiful artwork was done by Julia Mahood, so I set it out where people can see it as my show hive. 🐝



Handles just make beekeeping life a little easier!



The completed Layens (horizontal) Hive set-up.



The foundationless frames were the toughest part.



The fanciful bee artwork was painted by Julia Mahood.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information facts through the Wufoo form (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting). Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

STEAM education at Hartwell Elementary included beekeeping this year during the school's Agriculture Day. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school system cannot have their usual guest speakers and visitors for Ag Day but the students are really interested in bees,



beekeeping, and the honey harvesting process.

Andrea Gibbs, a second grade teacher and STEAM facilitator, asked the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers

Association to put together a video showing what life is like for both the honey bee and the beekeeper. The video "Honey Bees and the Beekeeper" includes a collection of pictures and video from LHBA members and was shown during the November 20th Hartwell Elementary Ag Day. 🍯



SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

The Chehaw Park and Artisans Alliance put on the most spectacular Halloween event and the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club's participation was a big hit. Not only did the kids ask for treats, but they were very inquisitive about the bees. Little ones coming down the lane could be heard chanting "Save the Bees" as they read the sign on our new tent. Parents asked about the bee school and membership as well. The kids really dressed up in costume and had so much fun.

On November 12, the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club held our 2020 Fall Honey Show at Chehaw Park. Cash prizes and ribbons were awarded in categories including Black Jar, extracted honey, comb honey, beeswax (candles, bars, and blocks), crafts, baked goods, mead, beer and more! 🍯



The SOWEGA club's new event tent at Chehaw Park and Artisans Alliance Halloween celebration.

HAPPY HOLIDAY HIVES

by *Holli Kircher, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers*



From the tiny entrance reducer to little frames, this Christmas gift I received is an exact replica of a Langstroth hive. I put the boxes together and built each little frame with the four tiny pieces of wood. It's about four inches tall. It was so much fun to make!

I took this picture of one of my bees at the entrance and then digitally added the Santa hat.

Thank A Bee This Festive Season!

From the cranberry sauce to the blueberry pie, we can thank the bees for much of the holiday food we'll enjoy at this time of year. As beekeepers, we know how much our honey bees and other pollinators contribute to the food we

eat. Take a look at your table this year and see if you can name all the dishes made possible by pollinators. We might not starve to death without them, but our meals certainly would be less nutritious, less plentiful and less festive! 🍯

