



Spilling *The* Honey

JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This new year brings the GBA into its 101st year and leaves behind a year we will not soon forget! We are not just growing but thriving, even as this pandemic rages and we experienced this year's winter solstice, with our sun at its lowest in the sky. We will step forward into this new year with our strong spring conference held via Zoom next month. Speakers sharing their knowledge include

Jennifer Berry, Jay Evans, Jack Rowe, Cindy Hodges, Julia Mahood, Barry Bolling, Michael Minardi, David McLeod, Willa Beth Smith, Linda Tillman, Georgia Zumwalt, and Brutz English. It is my great hope that this will be the last online conference and we are planning to meet in person in September. I'm looking forward to seeing you and all of us being together.



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



For conference information,
click here.

To register for the conference,
click here.

We are so grateful to those GBA members who volunteer and have kept GBA humming along, helping all of Georgia's beekeepers learn and grow. Special thanks to Linda Tillman, Jonathan Hayes and Karen Palmer for working and reworking all that needs to be done for our next conference and all the Zoom programs. I'm always in awe of our newsletter team, and currently Kathy Bourn and Peter Helfrich are doing a bang-up job. Gail Dean and Brutz have led on the legislative committee. Derrick Fowler, Marilynn Parker, Paul Berry and Luke Ellerman are settling into new roles and improving procedures for more efficacy. Sophia Price is managing the License Plate Proceeds Committee well with ample discussion and thought going into each request. Brutz English has another Honey Show planned pandemic style. You can find the rules on our website. There are others, such as Julia Mahood, who share their personal gifts when asked. I feel confident in this fine leadership and we all get continued training and guidance from past presidents, Mary Cahill-Roberts and Linda

Tillman. I'm very aware that when you volunteer to do good works for the GBA, your family volunteers at some level also. I thank all your families for their part in GBA as well. You can read more about individual volunteers each month in *Spilling The Honey*.

Many of you have taken advantage of our license plate proceeds money and seeded special projects to improve your local associations and communities. Please think creatively about a new project for your group or community to begin this bright and beautiful new year and new century of GBA!

With Gratitude,

- *Gina*



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.

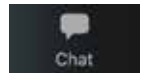
- **Mute** - on the far left is where your mic should be throughout the talk. The host can mute everyone. For our keynotes you will not have the choice to unmute until the talk is finished.



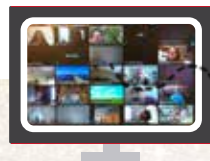
- **Start/Stop Video** – this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon



- **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.**

UGA Creates Bee Vet Program

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine established a one-of-a-kind program that will give residents and senior veterinary students clinical training experience with honey bees. The program is headed by Dr. Jeorg Mayer, Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine.

Dr. Mayer shared with us *this video* showing how veterinary students are preparing to diagnose and treat honey bee diseases. They are establishing a vet school bee club with more than 100 students interested in participating. The students not only actively care for the colonies at the school, but are educated on all health aspects of the honey bee as well. The goal is to prepare the emerging UGA veterinarians to help beekeepers and the beekeeping industry maintain healthy colonies.

Dr. Keith Delaplaine, director of the UGA Honey Bee Program, is partnering with Dr. Mayer to expand the program even more. If you'd like to read more about it in the UGA newspaper, *UGA Today*, [click here](#).

Dr. Mayer wants to let GBA members know that this program would not have been possible without the continued support of GBA and the UGA Bee Lab. "I am extremely grateful to the GBA for having the foresight and wisdom to deem this a support-worthy project." 🍯



From Dr. Jeorg Mayer's video, a UGA veterinary student evaluates a honey bee colony as part of the university's new program.

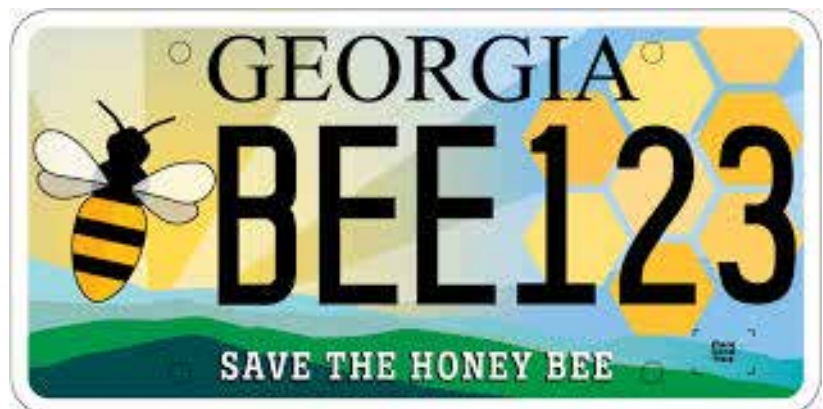
How to Apply for **GBA License Plate Funds**

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. 🍯



MABA's Virtual *Introduction to Beekeeping and Honey Bees* Open to All Clubs

Each January, the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association stages an amazing one-day "Introduction to Beekeeping and Honey Bees" course. For its 2021 edition, MABA will be taking their one-day course online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Offered via Zoom at a discounted rate of \$75, the event will take place on **Saturday, Jan. 30th, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees can attend – *even if a hive is not in your immediate future!*

Because many clubs around the state are not presenting their usual introductory courses this year, registration to MABA's online program includes a one-year membership in the Georgia beekeeping club of the attendee's choice, plus an additional \$10 donation to that club.

Because many clubs around the state are not presenting their usual introductory courses this year, registration to MABA's online program 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. 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 more.

Additionally, during the spring and summer months, hands-on experience with live bees will be available to all one-day course participants through MABA's hive inspection program. Hive inspections are also offered online through Zoom. 🐝

To register for the course, [click here](#).

For additional information, email: MABAShortCourse@gmail.com



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. To resume, ***we need your 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
gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Held
Online
Via

ZOOM

2021 SPRING CONFERENCE




**FEBRUARY
20th
8:30 AM -
4:30 PM**

We are thrilled to offer you an Online Spring GBA Conference. If you participated in the fall conference, you already know how much fun it was. With that experience behind us, this will be an even more wonderful adventure for all of us.

We have some great speakers lined up and all of them are offering talks that you will enjoy. Our lineup includes Jennifer Berry, Jay Evans and Jack Rowe. The program will be posted here when it is available.

We also will have breakouts on topics helpful to us in Georgia, presented by mostly Georgia folks. In your registration, we will ask you to choose one breakout to attend during the day of the conference, but we will record the breakouts and make them available to registered participants in our virtual conference to watch for the two weeks following the conference as well. Potentially you could see every breakout.

We are so pleased that you will be joining us on February 20 for our day-long GBA Spring Conference online. We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom! 

For conference information,
click here.

To register for the conference,
click here.

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:30	Opening Remarks	Gina Gallucci
8:45	Coping With Pesticides	Jack Rowe
9:35	Tackling the Interactions of Stress and Goodness on Bee Colonies	Jay Evans
10:25	BREAK	
10:35	The BIP Sentinel Program	Geoff Williams
10:50	Results of Oxalic Acid Study	Jennifer Berry
11:40	LUNCH	
12:25	Club Photo Montages	
12:45	Breakout Sessions:	
	The Importance of Raising Your Own Queens/ Use of Queen Hotels	Barry Bolling
	Races of Honey Bees: What You Need to Know	Cindy Hodges
	Bee Club Apiaries	Julia Mahood
	Making Mead	Michael Minardi
	Diseases of the Brood	David McLeod
	Medicinal Honey	Willa Beth Smith
	Offering a Virtual Hive Inspection for Your Bee Club	Linda Tillman
	Photography for Honey Shows: Continuing Education for Honey Judges	Georgia Zumwalt
1:30	Beginning Beekeeping	Jack Rowe
2:15	BREAK	
2:25	Novel Treatment Strategies for Bee Disease	Jay Evans
3:20	Artisan Show Awards	Brutz English
3:25	The Sunny Side of Beekeeping	Jennifer Berry
4:00	Closing Remarks	Gina Gallucci


Let Your Artistic Side Show!

by **Brutz English**

*GBA Director and Honey Show
Committee Chair*

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 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 ([click here](#)). 



THERE'S NOTHING

Trivial

ABOUT HONEY BEES!

TO KEEP YOUR HONEY BEE SENSES SHARP, SEE HOW MANY OF THESE TRIVIA QUESTIONS YOU CAN ANSWER CORRECTLY.

1. How many worker bees does it take to equal the weight of one plain M&M candy?

- A 5 workers
- B 10 workers
- C 20 workers

2. A queen bee can lay in excess of 2,000 eggs per day, a quantity that is:

- A Half her body weight
- B A quarter her body weight
- C More than her own body weight

3. What name did Native Americans use to describe the honey bee?

- A The white man's fly
- B The black bee
- C The fearsome fly

4. A forager bee can carry what percentage of her own weight in nectar and pollen?

- A 20%
- B 50%
- C 80%

5. Per capita consumption of honey in the United States is how much per year?

- A 1.5 pounds
- B 2.25 pounds
- C .75 pounds

See answers on page 14.

Beekeeping at UGA in the '70s

by Mickey Anderson

There was no beekeeping program at UGA when I arrived there as a junior transfer student in September, 1969. Dr. Horace Lund, then Entomology Department Chair, had some colonies of bees but didn't teach any courses on beekeeping. Dr. Alfred Dietz was hired as an associate professor to fill that void. I signed up for Dr. Dietz's introductory entomology class. An entomology graduate student looked at my schedule, and told me that Dietz was a real trouble maker, and to take it another quarter when a different professor was teaching it. I disregarded his advice and took the course under Dr. Dietz.

At the end of the fall quarter, Dr. Dietz told the class that he was teaching a beekeeping class in spring quarter 1970. About 12 students took it, and my beekeeping career began. None of the students had any beekeeping experience, so we all learned together. In the first beekeeping lab, we nailed together all the woodenware necessary to make a hive – frames, supers, hive bodies, bottom boards, inner covers, outer covers. All of this “wooden stuff” seemed to be mixed together and we had to figure out which piece to nail to what. Dr. Dietz was not there, and the graduate lab assistant knew less about beekeeping than the students did. I nailed my deep hive body together with the handle holds on the inside!

Around the middle of April 1970, we received 25 packages of bees and the students installed them all on foundation. We had a three-hour lab each Tuesday and Thursday, during which we took extensive notes on our assigned

colony. The other three days, we had a one-hour lecture.

I wanted to study apiculture, and concurrently, Dr. Dietz was in the initial stages of developing his beekeeping program at UGA. None of the 50 or so graduate or undergraduate students at the UGA entomology department were interested. This meant that I was the only beekeeping student! Dr. Dietz needed royal jelly for his research. So with only a few days experience as a beekeeper, my first job was collecting royal jelly. To do this, I set up about five colonies for queen rearing. I learned how to graft larvae; then, I took the three-day old queen cells, removed the queen larvae, collected the royal jelly, and cycled the hive back to repeat the process. These queen-rearing colonies were located on the roof of the six-story Biological Sciences Building. When I was on the roof, I could look out across the street at Sanford Stadium and could see almost the whole football field (long before it was closed in). Occasionally, I watched the freshman football team (UGA had a freshman football team in 1970) play their games. At other times, I watched and listened to the band practice.

In June 1970, one of Dr. Dietz's research projects was to evaluate the mineral contents of different age bees that lived in natural, free-flight hives. To do this, I had to mark emerging bees once a day. I selected about 50 deep frames with emerging brood and put these in an incubator. Each day, I brushed about 1000-1500 newly emerged bees into a box that I designed and built from scrap wood. The marking box had a #8 wire mesh hinged lid and a movable bottom

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Above: Mickey Anderson teaching queen grafting at Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc. Photo by Linda Tillman

*Left: Dr. Alfred Dietz (left) and Mickey Anderson outside Dietz's office in the UGA Biological Sciences Building (about 1971/72). The picture on the door is a bee louse (*Braula coeca*) taken by Dr. Dietz with a scanning electron microscope*

Beekeeping at UGA in the '70s

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with a soft foam cover. I would dump about 100 bees into this marking box then give them about one second to upright themselves and separate. Bees less than one day old don't fly so I could move the square piston-like bottom up to gently pin the bees and lock it in place. I used a small stick dipped in quick-drying model airplane paint and marked about 100 bees every three minutes. Every night around 9 pm (weekends and holidays included for about three months), I would take these bees and put them in a selected colony. I smoked the receiving colony heavily and dumped in the newly emerged bees. Practically none of them were killed by the receiving colony bees. Then, on any given day the researcher could go back to this colony and know (to the day) how old the marked bees were. I marked more than 70,000 honey bees. We recovered some

20,000 marked bees, getting them at three-day intervals from three to 45 days old, with the oldest bee being more than 60 days old.

During this first year (1970), Dr. Dietz was actively contacting different officers and other members of the Georgia Beekeeping Association, introducing himself and telling them about his teaching and research duties. The first year, he scheduled a weekend field trip in May for all the students in the beekeeping class to visit a commercial queen-rearing operation and Dadant bee supply warehouse, both located in Hahira, Ga. Also in June, on a Sunday afternoon, a group of about 20 beekeepers from one of the clubs in the Atlanta area came to UGA and we showed them our new lab. I discussed our research and demonstrated the bee marking project. 🍯

GBA Represents

by *Kathleen Bourn*

How nice it was to settle in on a cold December day with a cup of hot tea (with honey of course!) and catch up on my bee magazine reading. Even better was to open up the December issues of both *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal* and see our GBA members and activities featured.

Jonathan Hayes and Linda Tillman shared our "Zooming Success in Georgia" in ABJ. They offered a great blueprint for putting on a statewide beekeeping conference in a Covid world. It covered the planning process, the mechanics involved, and the lessons learned. Now we all know how much blood, sweat and tears goes into putting on a conference for us.

The editors of *Bee Culture* included two of our GBA members in the December interviews issue.

One story tells how Jennifer Berry traveled down the very winding road from biomedical engineering to stand-up comedian to thespian to beekeeper to research professional and lab manager for the UGA Honey Bee Program.

We all know Julia Mahood as our "can do anything" beekeeper and now the *Bee Culture* readers know it too. Julia is working to elevate the importance of honey bee drones by elevating her mechanical drone – or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – to find and research drone congregation areas (DCA). She has perfected the method and hopes to encourage others to find their own DCAs by using her Map My DCA website. Readers can also learn about the incredible GBA Prison Program that Julia heads.

We're so proud of how GBA represents! 🍯



Kathy Bourn

by *Linda Tillman*, GBA Past-President

Kathy Bourn is often seen at GBA Conferences selling raffle tickets. She volunteers at many levels in the beekeeping world. She has served as president and now treasurer of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association. She has organized and chaired their short course for several years. And for the last two years she has been one of the co-editors of the GBA Newsletter, *Spilling the Honey*.

I caught Kathy on a rare day off. She has worked as a video photographer in the news department of 11Alive (WXIA-TV) in Atlanta for over thirty years. Even though many employees at Channel 11 are working from home in COVID world, Kathy is on the field crew, visiting news sites such as the Black Lives Matter protests and the inevitable fires or weather storms. Her in-person job involves wearing a mask on a daily basis and she has quite a mask collection. Masks are difficult when you are a video photographer – they can cause a foggy viewfinder on the camera – so finding the right one is quite the challenge.

During the week, Kathy lives in Atlanta and every weekend for the past 23 years she has driven to Hart county where she has 170 acres of land in Canon, Georgia, near Lake Hartwell. Kathy was born in Illinois and when she was 12, her family moved to Arizona, where she lived until after college. In her early career, she worked for the NBC affiliates in Tucson and Phoenix, and then moved to Atlanta where her sister lived to work for Channel 11, the NBC affiliate there.

Kathy's father was in construction and since there were only girls in her family, she said, "I was always on the other end of the two by four." She learned building skills from him and now lives in a house she built herself from the ground up! In Kathy's early Atlanta days, she bought and renovated houses in Grant Park. She renovated about a dozen houses in that historic Atlanta neighborhood. She lived in about four of those and rented or sold the others. All of this prepared her for her land purchase in 1997.

During the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Kathy was assigned to follow the torch run which went all over Georgia. In the process, when the torch went through Hart County, Kathy said, "I really liked it. It was above the gnat line and not too mountainous." She purchased 86 acres of land there and has added more acres to her property since.



Above: Kathy running a raffle ticket sale (top) and leading a hive inspection (bottom).

She brought all of her construction talent to the building of both her house and her guest house. The building job is always a work in progress. She took a break from plumbing the upstairs of her house to talk to me for this article.

She started keeping bees about six years ago and discovered that she could also build houses for the bees! She has top bars, Langstroths, Warre hives, long Langstroth hives, and a Layens hive, all of which she built herself. Kathy loves her tools which she affectionately calls her "implements of destruction." She converted a garden

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GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

cart into a rolling Bee Buggy which includes a nuc box, a frame rack, a place for her log book, and of course, space for all of her tools. The Bee Buggy moves from hive to hive with her.

When Kathy's mother retired 18 years ago, she moved to the farm to live with Kathy. Her mother holds down the fort during the week, feeding the ducks and chickens while Kathy is in Atlanta. Only Kathy takes care of the bees. Most of her bees are at her farm, but her Lake Hartwell club has two of Kathy's top bar hives at the Agriscience Center where the bee club meets. These hives are teaching hives for the school students.

Kathy volunteers because she "doesn't like to sit and watch other people working." She describes herself as a "good worker bee." She said, "I don't have to be in charge, but I love actually working." When she went to her first GBA conference, she asked the people selling raffle tickets if there were something she could do to help and she has volunteered ever since. As a beginner beekeeper at that time, she said she could do something like sell tickets and not have to answer questions that she wasn't informed enough yet to answer.

With each volunteer job Kathy takes on, she stretches herself. Usually something about each job is a little outside her comfort zone. When she was the president of Lake Hartwell, she hadn't had the experience of standing up and talking in front of groups. Now, she is comfortable giving bee presentations! In the newsletter editor job, every month around the 10th, she gets worried that there will not be enough material for the newsletter and yet, every month there is plenty. She has honed her already good organization skills in this job and she has a great system for putting the articles that come in for each publication in working order.

In shooting video for her Channel 11 job, Kathy is challenged to "make situations that exist look as interesting as possible." In the GBA/Lake Hartwell world, Kathy takes lots of photographs with that as her guiding principal. She doesn't stage photographs; she sees existing situations and tries to record them in interesting ways. GBA has certainly benefited from the many photos that she has taken during GBA events.

Kathy belongs to several beekeeping groups: Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, MABA, GBA, and the Natural Beekeeping Atlanta Meetup. She discovered the best thing she likes about getting together with other beekeepers

is that "with beekeepers you can have a dentist next to a nuclear scientist next to a farmer - the topic is always just how are your bees. People from all aspects of life are joined in common by this little bug. It's nice being a part of that."

Volunteering is a great way "to meet others who are passionate about bees and beekeeping." Kathy looks forward to continuing to be "a worker bee; a part of the mechanism." We are so lucky that GBA benefits from the enormous volunteer energy of Kathy Bourn. 🐝



Above: Kathy and her bees clean up after a honey harvest (top); Kathy with GBA past-president Linda Tillman (bottom).

The Beekeeper's Workbench:



A LONG LANG QUILT BOX

by *Holli Kircher*

I made this quilt box/feeder shim for my long langstroth hive. I'm sure I made it more complex than it needed to be, but I wanted to make sure I wouldn't have to pry off the propolized base. Instead, I just lift off the inner quilt box (I use cedar dog bed shavings) and then I can easily add my sugar bricks. It's kind of hard to tell in the photos, but I allowed enough room underneath the quilt box and the tops of the frames to set the brick on the frames below. I may have made it harder than it needed to be, but I'm pretty happy with the result! 🐝





These links should be of use to every local president:

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the “card catalog” of videos available to show to your club as a program when you don’t have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA’s License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**

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

Tara Beekeepers Association

Tara Beekeepers Association has announced that Deb DeWitt will serve as its president in 2021.

After a short 2020 hiatus, Tara Beekeepers has planned the first six months of our 2021 calendar and we are excited to announce our new schedule. We meet on the 3rd Monday night of the month at 7 pm. Please check the website for featured Zoom guest speakers. Zoom enables all to join our meetings and see how we provide education to our members. We will resume in-person meetings in July 2021 (COVID permitting).

Tara Beekeepers Association is also holding a hive painting contest in April. Persons interested in entering can see the details at tarabeekeepers.org. Prizes will be awarded!



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met in person for the first time since March on December 15th at the Fair Bridge Inn in Perry. The large meeting room provided ample social distancing space for those in attendance. It was also a hybrid meeting via Zoom, hosted by Karen Palmer. President Jonathan Hayes updated the members on several club matters and announced the officers for 2021. The new officers are: Anita Curry, president; Glen Christopher, vice-president; Hazel McCurdy, secretary; Emily Heath, treasurer; Doug Romans and Joe Santiago, directors. Door prizes were awarded and each member received a HOGBA mask from the club. The 2020 Beekeeper of the Year was awarded to our president, Jonathan Hayes. In addition to his service to our local club, Jonathan also devotes a great deal of time to the Georgia Beekeepers Association where he is currently the chairman of the GBA Zoom Committee. As part of the state committee, Jonathan continues to coordinate three committee members in hosting Zoom meetings for clubs all across Georgia. Jonathan helped to plan and host the GBA Fall conference, all of which was online. By hosting the two-day event, each time a new session was presented, Jonathan appeared to introduce that speaker. This responsibility included editing all of the videos

from the conference and posting them online for two weeks afterward, a time-consuming service. An article co-authored by Jonathan Hayes and then GBA President, Linda Tillman in the December issue of American Bee Journal describes how an online conference was accomplished and the contributions made by Jonathan. Our president has devoted time and effort to our beloved beekeeping and to the keepers of bees. 🐝



Jonathan Hayes receives his award from Emily Heath, HOGBA treasurer.



The Secret Life of Winter Bees

by **Kathy Bourn** (as told by *Apis mellifera*)

If you wonder what honey bees *really* do in the winter... well, let us tell you our secrets. If you read the books – and believe them – you might think that all we do is cluster together and don't poop until spring. What's little known is that we have a very busy winter life. Once we get the colony yearly letter out, we spend time decorating the hive with golden propolis. Of course a lot of time is spent preparing food and, if we're good little bugs, our keeper will bring us a nice lump of sugar.

We do think about staying warm a lot, but none of us thinks it's a good idea to start a fire. Sometimes we smell smoke, but we can't seem to find the fire. Since we don't understand what social distancing is, we stay close and warm.

Our holiday celebration is centered around the winter solstice. We give thanks for more daylight and the promise of spring. If you look closely, you might see a couple of winter solstice ugly sweaters worn by a few of our crazier sisters.

We really pack on the pounds (or rather grams) until after the holiday, and then spend the rest of the winter losing weight. If it's warm enough, we like to spend time perfecting our waggle

dance. Some of the girls get together and teach a class for those who could use the practice and the exercise.

What you might be surprised to know is that we do make New Year's resolutions. Honey bees usually resolve to improve their flying (some of our take-offs and landings are ugly), or to save more honey and pollen for a rainy day, or to be kinder to our keeper (maybe stinging a little less).

The coldest days of winter are spent inside trying to keep the hive tidy, maybe straightening out some comb or cleaning a few cells. Keeping the mice out is a full-time job. Hive maintenance is always an issue. Some cracks usually need to be propolized or moisture problems dealt with. Of course, when our keeper comes along and decides to break the propolis seals, we have to fix that mess.

As spring approaches, we sit down and analyze the colony's resources to determine if we have had enough withholdings. If not, the girls know we have to get out and start bringing in the sweets as soon as the maple trees pop.

Now you know the secret life of winter honey bees. 🍯

Trivia Answers:

1. B – 10 workers, or a little less than 10 grams
2. C – More than her own body weight per day

3. A – The white man's fly, named for the new insect brought by European colonists.
4. C – 80%
5. A – 1.5 pounds per capita, according to the National Honey Board.



GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Spilling *The* Honey

FEBRUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Bridge began to hint at something that lay behind his beekeeping, a group of bee practitioners whom he called members of a bee cult... We are simple beekeepers. But as well as that, we are the holders of an immense knowledge that has been passed to us from one generation to the next.”

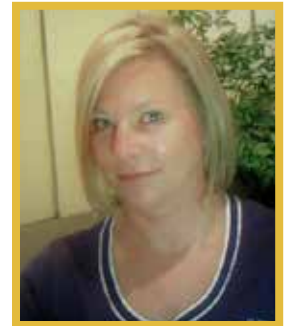
– **Simon Buxton**
The Shamanic Way of the Bee

Georgia Beekeepers Association is thriving, cultivating, and improving in our efforts and abilities to help beekeepers all over the state. **Our online conference, Saturday, February 20th** will continue these efforts. See page two for more details.

Let us be thankful for those who have gone before and shared their knowledge and wisdom with us. May we all pass along what we know to others and continue this great tradition. I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference. 🐝

With Gratitude,

– *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association





Held
Online
Via

ZOOM

2021

SPRING CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

FEBRUARY
20th
8:30 AM -
4:30 PM

You'll have fun at our upcoming GBA Online Spring Conference. The keynote speakers will present thought-provoking topics. For example, Jack Rowe's talk on pesticides is a different perspective than we usually hear. One of Jay Evans' talks will be on novel treatments for bee diseases. And Jennifer Berry, in addition to telling us all about what the bee lab has learned about oxalic acid, will also share the sunny side of beekeeping with us to end the conference.

Our breakouts all look fascinating and while you can only watch one at the conference itself, all of the talks, keynotes and breakouts will be available to you on video if you have registered for the conference. Here are our breakout topics and speakers:

- **BARRY BOLLING** is speaking on the importance of **raising your own queens** and he will be sharing how he uses the queen hotel to help him do this.
- **CINDY HODGES** will educate us about **races of bees**, and *I promise you, this is not a talk about bees running the Boston Marathon!* 🐝
- **JULIA MAHOOD** has visited many club apiaries and has talked to lots of clubs about how they manage a club apiary. She will be telling us the **key factors in making a club apiary work**.



- **MICHAEL MINARDI**, who often wins big at our mead show, will share his secrets about **how to make prize-winning mead**.
- **DAVID MCLEOD** has kept bees for 40 years and will share his knowledge about the **diseases of the brood**.
- **WILLA BETH SMITH** has learned many **medicinal uses of honey and herbs** in her training in the NE Georgia mountains and she will share this knowledge with us.
- **LINDA TILLMAN** who presented 14 **hive inspections via Zoom** during 2020, will help your club learn how to do this since COVID is still a danger through this upcoming bee season.
- **GEORGIA ZUMWALT**, a prize-winning photographer, will teach us how to present and **how to judge photography successfully in the artisan show**. This workshop includes CE training for honey judges.

In addition to all of the above educational opportunities, we will have FUN at the spring conference as well. We'll try to entertain you just as we did in the fall. Enjoy all of this from the comfort of your own home without the expense of travel and lodging!

If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late. Just click here! It's only \$15. 🐝



For conference information,
CLICK HERE.

To register for the conference,
CLICK HERE.



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.

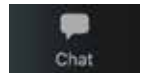
- Mute** - on the far left is where your mic should be throughout the talk. The host can mute everyone. For our keynotes you will not have the choice to unmute until the talk is finished.



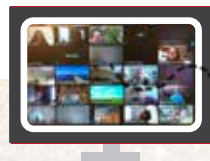
- Start/Stop Video** – this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon



- 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.**

I Love My Bees...

But I Wonder If They Love Me Back!

by Drace Langford

I am a new beekeeper as of April 2020. We moved here from Miami to Eatonton on Lake Sinclair in central Georgia. I ordered my Flow Hive, set it up, and ordered three pounds of bees from a North Georgia supplier. A member of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association, a lovely gentleman named Mr. Tim, came over from Sparta to help me install them. I will never forget his kindness. He even invited me over to see his hives and collect the first batch of honey for the season.

Well, the spring flow came and summer passed. I tended to my bees and inspected the hive almost weekly. Around Thanksgiving, my family was visiting and my 10-year old niece pointed out the colony in the tree... *not 20 feet from my hive*. I was gob-smacked! I never noticed it and I felt like a bad parent! Both colonies seemed to be doing well, I am sure they swarmed several months ago and I never noticed them up on the tree branch. I had noticed the queen cells, about four or five of them in my Flow hive, but I was so new that I didn't know what they were. The bees seemed to be traveling back and forth. There was no brood in the tree colony, only honey stores, but the regular hive had both brood and honey stores.

I consulted with a professional beekeeper and unfortunately I had to destroy the colony in the tree. I relocated those bees back to the entrance of my Flow hive. I will be putting together another Flow Hive next month in preparation for a nuc of bees coming later this spring. I am hoping for a great season for 2021!

I have so much to learn...but I love these little bees! 🐝



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. 🐝



Work-Life Balance Includes Bees

by Jeff Herold

My day job is at the Defense Forensic Science Center (DFSC) in Forest Park, Georgia. DFSC is the U.S. Department of Defense's premier laboratory for processing forensic evidence from military crime scenes around the globe. The center also deploys forensic scientists world-wide in support of our military's special operations community to identify those that engage in acts of terrorism.

Recently, my directorate hosted a virtual wellness program titled "A Healthy Work-Life Balance." As part of the presentation, I was given the opportunity to springboard into a discussion of our favorite hobby: *beekeeping*.

During the first half of the program, DFSC Wellness Counselors introduced techniques to reduce stress and anxiety, especially during extended telework, and maintain proper boundaries. Dr. Susie Stubbs and Ms. Jane Davis emphasized the need to cut the ties of technology to help keep the lines of work and family time clear, while providing the holistic psychological benefits of setting limits and reevaluating priorities.

My wife Rebecca and I operate the Spitfire Bee Company in Jersey, GA. I find the time spent in my apiary to be incredibly therapeutic. It provides an opportunity for me to unplug from the outside world and connect with nature. It also allows me to forget about the stresses of my job and to appreciate what our favorite insects provide for our environment and food supply. So in the second half of DFSC wellness program, I welcomed the opportunity to share how beekeeping helps me manage my stress and anxiety, and discuss the therapeutic benefits of this hobby. My "Backyard Beekeeping" presentation also touched on



topics like bee biology, threats to our favorite insects, and what we can do to help the honey bee.

The event was viewed virtually by 45 employees and it was made available via a Teams recording for deployed employees around the globe. The program was lauded by team members from all over the lab, and it appears that several new "beeks" may also soon be seeking solace in the bee yard as a result of my presentation

I find great comfort in watching the bees come and go as they toil about in their duties. It really fills my cup, providing a respite from the rat race, so I can be better when I return to my job the next day. Beekeeping is an important part of my life and something I wouldn't trade for anything. 🐝

Disclaimer: This content is not endorsed by DFSC or the Dept of Defense.

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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
gbnewsletters@gmail.com

An Off-Season Visit with Commercial Beekeepers

by *Mary Lacksen and Katherine Mahlberg*, BeeCo Apiaries

Recently, BeeCo took a trip two hours south of our apiary to visit two large-scale apiculture operations: Gardner's Apiaries and Vidalia Apicultural Services. Our hope was to visit them before their busy season started. At each, we were greeted by friendly beekeepers, employees, and business owners who graciously answered our questions and showed us around their facilities.

Gardner's Apiaries

Our first stop was Gardner's Apiaries in Baxley, GA. We arrived at noon and the office staff was gone to lunch, so Chris, an employee of ten years, showed us around. We quickly realized that Chris was not only exceptional at giving a thorough tour, but also widely skilled in almost every aspect of beekeeping. He is the manager of Gardner's on-site woodworking shop and lumber mill. We could see his handiwork and knowledge all over the sprawling complex just by looking at the honey processing facility, wax melting shed, honey bottling site, field truck garage, and beekeeping equipment yard.



A single queen cup made from recycled beeswax that is used in the queen rearing production at Gardner's Apiaries. They have found that the bees prefer and perform better when they use the wax coated frames and natural wax cups as opposed to the plastic alternatives.

(continued on next page)



Internal feeders as shown here are coated with melted wax to seal the inner and outer seams before use in the hives.



Gardner employees started work last year to manufacture all 65,000 boxes that their packages will be sold in this spring.



The honey extractor at Gardner's Apiaries can hold 200 frames of honey.

(continued from previous page)

Gardner's has about 50 full-time employees. They sell queens and three-pound packages. Chris shared that to manufacture all of the 65,000 boxes that their packages will be sold in this spring, he had to start working last year. Packages are not their only building product. They've become almost totally independent, producing their own internal feeders, hives, queen cups, frames, mating nuc boxes, and more.

We were impressed with how little is wasted. Chris finds ways to repurpose or reuse materials to make this operation extremely lean and self-sufficient. They use melted wax collected during honey harvest to coat the inside of the internal feeders they make. Dipping the edges of the feeders into melted wax makes them watertight so they can hold the corn syrup mixed with supplements and electrolytes they use to feed their bees in the colder months. After dipping the edges and seams in wax, they also pour wax into the feeder and coat the interior. Melted wax is also used to coat new and recycled hive frames and to make the queen cells that are used during the grafting process. They've found that the bees prefer and perform better when they use the wax coated frames and natural wax cups as opposed to the plastic alternatives that are sold by beekeeping equipment companies.

Last but not least was the large natural beehive outside of the lumber shop and honey processing facility. Chris said that it started about three years ago and has been expanding ever since. He plans to catch the queen in the coming months to breed her, because feral queens from natural hives have the strongest genetics and most desirable traits. Looking up at this natural hive, suspended just ten feet above me, felt like looking into another world. It was a good reminder of just how capable, creative and wonderful honey bees are, and how lucky we are to get to learn from them.



The natural hive at Gardner's Apiaries is about three years old. Chris plans to catch the queen to breed because feral queens from natural hives have the strongest genetics and most desirable traits.

Vidalia Apicultural Services

Our second visit took us about 30 miles straight north of Baxley to the outskirts of Lyons, GA. We walked into the gift shop and headquarters for Vidalia Apicultural Services and met with Heather Davis, managing partner and CFO. She agreed to show us around and talk to us more specifically about their queen rearing process, something we would like to continue to improve on back at BeeCo Apiaries.

While smaller in size than Gardner's, Vidalia Apicultural Services was certainly no less impressive. What started out as a pollination service business is now a thriving apicultural leader in packages and queens. Heather said that when she started beekeeping in 2012, she had 20



Vidalia Apicultural Services has a lovely small gift shop with all sorts of honey and hive products

(continued from previous page)

nucs. Fast forward to today and she is managing a business of 15 employees, selling queens, nucs, packages, and honey products. Heather was the previous Club President of the Altamaha Beekeepers Association.

One thing that impressed us about the set up at her facility was the proximity of the queen grafting room to the breeder colonies, starter colonies, and finisher colonies. All of these are essential components in the queen-rearing process and it was interesting to hear about the systems they have in place for achieving maximum and quality production when grafting new queens. We walked away from our visit with a greater appreciation and understanding that every little detail and step in the process improves the outcome of a quality queen.

Behind the grafting shed and shop, Heather showed us the long line of overwintered nucleus hives. They set them up in late August and continue to feed, monitor, and treat throughout the winter months. Soon they'll be selling these to local beekeepers, looking to restock or build up their own hives. Their main focus will be on preparing packages to meet the demand of both local and national customers. Some customers are picking up orders that fill an entire tractor trailer.

It's mind blowing to think about the number of bees raised in Georgia that are moved across our country to help pollinate food crops. Bees in south Georgia arrive in such places as Arizona, Wisconsin, and even the upper peninsula of Michigan. The importance of these pollinators, and these apicultural businesses in South Georgia, cannot be overstated.

We are grateful for both the honey bees, these two apicultural businesses, and what they do for beekeepers, agriculture, and the ecosystem. The good people at Gardner's and Vidalia Apicultural Services are friendly and so willing to teach new and experienced beekeepers. We thank them for their time and service. 🍯



Frames assembled and ready to go for the busy spring season at Vidalia Apicultural Services in Lyons, Georgia.



At Vidalia Apicultural Services, Heather shows us the peg board they use to make handmade queen cups from recycled beeswax for their queen rearing production.



Vidalia Apicultural Services specializes in selling queens, nucs, packages, and honey products.

Marilynn Parker

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Marilynn Parker began keeping bees at an early age. Previous to moving to Georgia, when she was around ten, her family had a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Her dad started keeping bees when they moved to Georgia. One day, he looked at Marilynn, who was wearing flip flops, a halter top and short shorts and said, “Get out here and help me.” So with no veil and no protection, she was thrown into beekeeping and has done it ever since with two breaks for having children.

She bought her first veil with her babysitting money about a month or two into her beekeeping career. Now, when she teaches beginner classes in beekeeping, she insists that everyone in her class at minimum should wear a veil.

Now Marilynn, who lives in Douglasville, has about 150 hives in Piedmont, Alabama which she manages with her brother Jerry, who is nine years younger. Marilynn is the second of four children. Together, Jerry and Marilynn have a business called Buzz Factor Honey in Alabama and a store where they sell bees and honey.

Marilynn is married to her childhood sweetheart Thomas. When they were in high school, Marilynn had to leave school one day to take a proficiency test. She knew Thomas had a car so she asked him if she could borrow it. He tossed her the keys. Marilynn said, “You didn’t even ask me if I had a license!” Thomas said, “Well, do you?” It was an automatic, but Marilynn managed to drive it and get it back in one piece. They have been married for 50 years.

Marilynn has had a number of jobs over the course of her life. She says she usually stays six or seven years. One of her favorite jobs was as a kindergarten teacher at the school her children attended. Her skills at teaching have followed her into beekeeping where she has helped many, many people get started both in keeping bees and in honey show judging. Marilynn says she loves the way people’s (and kindergarteners’) eyes light up when they finally get it. She told me, “It’s so nice to share and see people grow. Encouraging and teaching is part of my DNA.”

Marilynn belongs to a number of bee clubs and organizations, including West Georgia, Coweta, East Alabama, GBA, Florida

(continued on next page)



Above: Marilyn receives her Senior Honey Judge certificate from Michael Young; the hive Marilyn maintains for the Master Gardener’s “Grow a Row for the Hungry”

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

Beekeepers Association, Alabama Beekeepers Association and EAS. She's active in all of them. She also has taken volunteer jobs in most of these organizations. She has been both secretary at Coweta Beekeepers and president of West Georgia Beekeepers at the same time for six years running. Her bee club is in charge of the apiary at the University of West Georgia and she uses that apiary as a teaching facility.

Because Marilynn is a Welsh honey judge, she has judged in thirty or forty honey shows at local, state and regional levels. She loves working honey shows and says, "I appreciate rules, standards and ethics. I enjoy the creativity of the Artisan show." Marilynn serves on the GBA Honey Show Committee and teaches in the Young Harris Welsh honey judge training.

Marilynn's most recent volunteer job is her new role as secretary of the GBA. She took on this job when GBA's former secretary, Derrick Fowler, was elected vice-president. Marilynn will serve the rest of Derrick's term as secretary and if she likes, will then run on her own merit next September.

When asked what she liked about the job so far, she said, "The comradery of the officer corps - the respect and appreciation of each person's volunteer time and for their opinions. Many hands make light work. There is so much encouragement of the leadership to include everyone in this wonderful endeavor to work with honeybees." Marilynn's new job involves not only taking minutes at the two annual conferences and board meetings, but also to be a part of and take minutes for other committees, such as the License Plate Proceeds Committee.

She says of the role of secretary, "My mission is to keep accurate records, keep communication flowing and support the leadership." In this writer's opinion, she is doing a great job! Marilynn knows a lot about Robert's Rules of Order and is a great member of any committee where opinions and ideas are flying. Marilynn keeps account of things like unaddressed motions on the floor and what needs to happen next to get the meeting back on the rails.

Marilynn is a multi-talented woman with many interests. In addition to the bees, she quilts and sews; she brings antique sewing machines back to life; and she has bred and raised prize dogs. The bees, in conjunction with her Buzz Factor Honey business with her brother, are a very important part of her life. We at GBA are lucky that she is sharing her talents and love for the bees with us. 🐝



Above: Marilynn's Bee Cause display for West Georgia Beekeepers Association won th Educational Award at the Hydrangea Festival Flower Show



The Beekeeper's Workbench: CUT COMB CHALLENGE

by *Ryun Forsman*

This past spring, I decided I want to start producing cut comb honey. I know there are products like Ross Rounds and Hogg systems already in existence, but I wanted to experiment with making my own. I began by modeling a box design based on something I saw in a YouTube video. My design is based on a ten-frame box using a 2 x 8 (cut to height) with two 3/8" rabbets on each side of the top. I can get 26 frames in the box and the size of the actual cut comb will be 5"x5.25" if using a normal frame. You can use standard medium frames if you cut down the top bars and cut grooves to attach one of the end bars.

I decided to fabricate my own top bars, cut down to 1/2" thickness so I could get a perfectly square 5.25" x 5.25" comb square. In doing that, I reduced the groove that I had cut in the top bar, but there is still a little groove if I need it. Next time, I might actually make the bottom bars a little thinner since they won't be holding very much weight. My hope is to be able to get roughly a one-pound block of comb per frame from this setup.

Since I had to make custom sized top and bottom bars, I decided to try making my own sidebars as an extra challenge. I just really need a band saw now to cut those transitions from the top to bottom on the side bars. I have a bunch of 2x6 and 2x8 scraps lying around, so I think I will take a day to make a bunch of side bars for future frames. I'm certainly no master craftsman, but I'm pretty pleased with how the project turned out.

I'm also considering throwing in some 3-D printed frames for this set-up. I can print the top and side bars in one single piece, and attach a bottom bar separately. I printed

a prototype just to see how it would turn out, and it printed and fit perfectly.

In theory, those 3-D printed frames should work, but I have concerns about the potential for off-gassing (chemical gasses released from the plastic). If I print them for actual use, I would use PETG or ABS plastics. Both of those plastics should hold up fine during the heat of the summer without warping or melting and I can get food-safe versions of both plastics. I don't believe the plastic would harm the bees, especially considering people use plastic frames, foundation and even full plastic boxes now. My only real worry is the potential for the plastic contaminating the honey (if that's even possible).



I did think of a potential fix. I'm thinking about dipping all of the plastic frames in beeswax before using. There are microscopic pores within the layers of anything that's 3-D printed; if dipped in wax a few times, my thought is those pores would be sealed, as well as sealing the plastic itself. It might even encourage the bees to draw the frames out a little quicker. I just don't want to encourage the bees to draw burr comb everywhere.

I might experiment with a few starter strip options to see which ones the bees like best, or if they even care about starter strips at all. 🐝

Ryun would like to get some feedback from you about his cut comb challenge. **CLICK HERE to email him** if you have any ideas or thoughts you'd like to share about his project.



Not-So-Pro Tip: In The Rough

by *Kathy Bourn*

There are more and more conversations about the advantage of having the interior of your bee hives be rough wood. The idea is that the bees tend to propolize a rough texture more than a smooth one, creating a “propolis envelope” surrounding the bee nest. Made from resins and other oils and fats collected from trees, propolis helps the bees with a variety of health and maintenance issues inside the hive.

If you’re building your own hives, you can accomplish the rough interior by using rough sawn wood. This isn’t that simple because you can’t get rough sawn wood just anywhere and you may run into problems getting the dimensions and bee space correct. Using this type of wood works best on homemade top bar hives. (Be careful using pallet wood. Make sure it doesn’t have chemicals spilled on it.)

Another idea is to manually roughen the wood before you assemble the hive. This can be done by running the interior of the board over a shallow table saw blade or using a skill saw with the blade held at a steep angle and moving sideways. This can be a little tricky for people not used to working with power saws. *Beekeeping is easier if you keep all your fingers!*

A challenge comes when you want to roughen the interior of hives that are already built. You can do this by hand with a stiff wire brush but that gets really old, really fast.

The technique I use is to attach a braided wire brush to an angle grinder. It’s an absolutely barbaric tool that can take off wood, paint and your hide if you let it get away from you!

Beekeepers hate propolis when it becomes the bee glue that we have to crack apart all the time, but it’s good for the bees and that’s what we’re all about. 🐝

Send us
your tips!



Do you have a tip that makes your beekeeping better?

Let us know! We’ll share it in *Spilling The Honey*.

E-mail: gbanewsletters@gmail.com





These links should be of use to every local president:

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Tara Beekeepers Association

Tara Beekeepers has invited **Julia Mahood** to speak on how she gets her creative ideas about painting her beehives! Join us on **February 15th** via Zoom as she discusses her inspiration. Julia Mahood is a Master Beekeeper with a long career in graphic design and fine art. She has won many awards in local, state and national honey shows for her hive products and fine art. Julia's presentation will cover materials, methods, and where to find creative inspiration to paint hives and make them works of art. There will be a door prize for all Tara members!

Hive Painting Contest

Beekeepers can put what they learn from Julia into practice and enter the Tara Beekeepers hive painting contest! As we all have to still hibernate, we know it will be fun to share inspiration! **See information on our website.**

Continuing Beekeeper Education Opportunity

Tara Beekeepers will be holding an educational course for new beekeepers that would like Zoom learning as well as hands-on, in-the-apiary learning! Nervous about bee-ing in

the apiary alone? We have a course that will follow the spring and summer in the apiary so that you can learn how to work your bees with confidence. Details to follow. **Watch for information on our website.** Limited Class Size.



Hive paintings by Julia Mahood

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

On Saturday, January 23rd, LCBA hosted a virtual beekeeping short course. Our member and University of Georgia Putnam County Extension Coordinator, **Keith Fielder**, offered this three-hour program with the help of the University of Georgia Zoom online platform. The course targeted first- and second-year beekeepers and addressed topics such as the pros and cons of purchasing bees in nucleus hives versus

packages, getting on your county's referral list for capturing swarms, nutrition, and the importance and methods of feeding, hive location, along with slides and entertaining stories featuring beekeeping management.



Keith Fielder's Four Tips For Every Beekeeper:

1. Join a local beekeeping club
2. Find and learn from an experienced beekeeper (someone with more than three years experience)
3. Apprentice with an experienced beekeeper for a minimum of one year
4. Choose where you get your beekeeping information. *Be VERY careful of how you use Facebook and YouTube for beekeeping education.*

We were excited to have 25 participants and have plans to continue serving our club with the Zoom platform until we are safely able to meet in person. 🍯



Spilling *The* Honey

MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks for all the hard work in creating a very successful spring conference last month.

At the President's Gathering, some great ideas were generated and shared regarding improving the timing of the *Spilling the Honey* newsletter and adding an additional distribution email a couple of weeks later to improve readership. Thank you, Bobby Thanepohn, for your digital marketing help. Eddie Gwaltney picked up an idea of local clubs postponing their dues because 2020 has been closed for in-person meetings.

For the conference itself, we had more than 280 registrants – *one from as far away as Lithuania!* There is a great deal of planning and correspondence which must happen before,

and there is a lot of work afterward, especially to allow the registrants to have access to all the talks over the following couple of weeks. I thank Linda Tillman and Jonathan Hayes for all these things and the many more details behind the scenes. They have been contacted by other bee associations for their expertise.



Katie Goodman, Chair of the GBA Facebook committee, Kathy Bourn and Peter Helfrich, Editors of *Spilling the Honey* newsletter, did a superior job on communications to all who might want to attend which made for such large registration numbers.

Derrick Fowler, GBA Vice President, Chair of the planning committee, worked with the vendors and obtained the door prizes which were chosen

and was hilarious in describing, “your Queen will ride on a pillow top, queen marking tool...” among other great lines. Derrick made all of us laugh out loud... such a treat!

Peter Helfrich designed our beautiful program. Julia Mahood helped in a wide variety of tasks including scheduling and helped get us the talk from the Bee Informed Partnership which shared the citizen science collaboration.

Brutz English, GBA Director and Sr. Welsh Honey Judge, managed the Artisan Honey Show with Kara Bassett, Marilyn Parker and Katie Goodman. This Artisan Honey Show is another first of its kind, being created and successfully implemented in spite of COVID-19 restrictions.

Eddie Gwaltney tickled the ivories again for us sharing his musical talents. We hired a Georgia Tech student, Greyson Mullins, who contributed his strong tech support skills to help those in need to “get in” to the conference. Bobby Chaisson, GBA Director, who is showing a real genius for timing and knocking on cherished beekeepers’ doors, once again traveled to surprise Michael Minardi at his home with his Best in Show award. Paul Berry managed the money, and Marilyn Parker took our minutes at the board meeting.

Many thanks to all of you who attended and to all who helped make this a great online conference. GBA is about connecting the beekeepers of our state and sharing good beekeeping education. 🍯

Thank you all for paying it forward!

– *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.



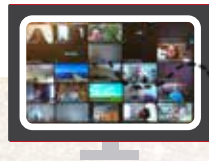
- **Start/Stop Video** – this is about how you are seen by others. If you don't have a camera on your computer or if you don't want to be seen, you can choose whether or not to have your video "on" by clicking on the camera icon



- **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.**

Become A BIP Sentinel Apiary

Would your club like to participate in the Bee Informed Partnership Sentinel Apiary program free of cost? GBA is partnering with Auburn University Extension to work with up to six Georgia clubs to participate in the Sentinel Program. These clubs would commit to hosting an educational event for their club members during the season, in addition to the BIP requirement of sending bee samples and health data from four colonies once a month from May to October.

Participating in the program is a great

educational experience for your club members, and it also contributes important honey bee health data to BIP. The cost to participate (\$325) and for a hive scale (\$319) will be covered with the GBA license plate funds.



To read more about the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program, click here: <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/sentinel-apiaries/>

If you're interested in participating as a GBA club, contact Julia Mahood: julia@mahoodstudio.com 📧



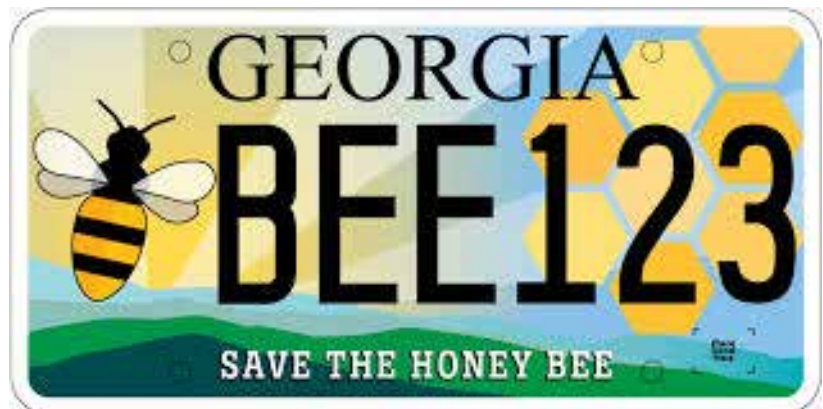
How to Apply for **GBA License Plate Funds**

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. 📧



UGA/Young Harris College Virtual Beekeeping Institute

May 13-14, 2021

A The University of Georgia Honey Bee Lab's 2021 Virtual UGA / Young Harris Beekeeping Institute will be held May 13-14, 2021. Each year – and this year is no exception – the Institute's goal is to create an educational event that meets the needs of everyone from the experienced beekeeper to the complete beginner. The two-day event will consist of lectures and workshops covering a vast range of beekeeping topics. This year, amazing guest speakers include professor Robin Crewe from The University of Pretoria, South Africa, Dr. Kristen Traynor from Arizona State University, and Jerry Hayes, the Editor of *Bee Culture* magazine. Regular

institute instructors will also provide a wealth of additional beekeeping education. Although things remain different this year, the UGA Bee Lab and the Institute's speakers are excited to bring this wonderful annual beekeeping experience to you in your own home. *Take care of you and your bees!* 🐝

For complete program and registration information, please visit their website at: www.ent.uga.edu/bees



Beekeeping
Institute

2021

May 13-14
Online



The Virtual Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the latest honey bee research and applied beekeeping techniques.

This year's virtual conference features Professor Robin Crewe, Dr. Kirsten Traynor, and Jerry Hayes plus numerous other talented beekeepers and scientists.



For more information: bees.caes.uga.edu/yhc-uga-beekeeping-institute



GBA 2021 ARTISAN SHOW

The GBA Honey Show Committee didn't want to miss the opportunity for GBA beekeepers to come out and show off what they can do beyond just wax and honey. For this year's Artisan Show, the committee arranged for exhibitors to either bring in or mail their entries.

The 21 categories, plus an inmate division, ranged from artwork to varietal meads. If an entry uses honey or wax, those products must have been produced by bees the exhibitor keeps. Other entries must have something to do with beekeeping or apiculture.




*Presiding/Senior Judge
Brutz English, SWHJ*

"That's the real fun of the Artisan Show, it really fosters innovation and creativity" said Brutz English, GBA Honey Show Committee Chairman.

"We have a couple of open categories where we're challenging our members to surprise us, to impress us, to come up with something that we haven't seen before."

With the support of the GBA Board and all the members who came out and exhibited, it ensured that the GBA honey shows stay spectacular.

"2020 and the pandemic has been a real challenge for all of us, personally, professionally, and in the beekeeping world," English said. "We thought about it long and hard and we decided to hold the artisan show as a traditional turn-in show. We thought it was very important to give our members and the people in the beekeeping community in Georgia the opportunity to come out and participate and the opportunity to show their wares and their skills and their expertise. And to have that exposure, comradery and competition that we all miss." 



Artisan Show Secretary Katie Goodman presents Best In Show winner Michael Minardi his award. Michael's winning entry was in the Varietal Meads category for his Strawberry Mead.





GBA 2021 ARTISAN SHOW



Cookies by Julia Mahood, Blue Ribbon, Honey Confections



Julia Mahood's Open Recipe Honey Cake, third place



Show Judge Marilyn Parker, SWHJ



Show Secretary Katie Goodman



Virginia Webb, Crafts, First Place



Linda Tillman, Needlecraft, First Place



Show Judge Kara Bassett, SWHJ



This beautiful hive tool produced by David Holloman was awarded second place in Crafts



Olivia Menard's Photo Essay (third place)

Tell it to the Bees

By Nancy Simpson

1st Place Winner, Poetry

*I am fatigued with the weight of the world
The year of waiting, watching, postponing
I stand beside my beehive
Watching the wonder of creation*

Tell it to the Bees

*I hear the buzz of busy bee bodies
Flying in then out, waggle round and round
I wonder what has become of our world
So divisive, so angry*

Tell it to the Bees

*I wish my life was more like them
Community, all for one and one for all
I worry that democracy as we know it
May just fade away*

Tell it to the bees

I am because you are



ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured in each *Spilling the Honey* issue.



To Assemble the Cake:

- Slice each of the two cakes in half horizontally so there are a total of 4 cakes.
- Place first layer of cake on a decorative plate. Add buttercream evenly on top, then pipe a ring of frosting around the outer edge.
- Spoon 3-4 tablespoons of raspberry curd evenly on top of the frosting inside the ring (the ring of frosting keeps it from oozing out).
- Apply next layer of cake and repeat process for second and third layers. Add top layer of cake and coat with butter cream.
- Lightly coat sides of cake with buttercream. If you are going for the "naked" look, scrape most of the buttercream off the sides (*NOTE: A revolving cake stand makes cake decorating much easier!*)
- At this point you can leave it plain or pipe decorations, add flowers, honey comb or otherwise embellish as you wish.

Enjoy!

RUSTIC HONEY & ALMOND NAKED CAKE

(with Honey Swiss Buttercream and Raspberry Curd)

By Deb Dewitt

For the cake layers:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 2 C. all-purpose flour | ½ C. honey |
| 1 C. almond flour | 4 large eggs |
| 1 T. baking soda | 1 ½ C. plain whole-milk yogurt |
| 3 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for coating pan | 1 t. kosher salt |
| 1 C. granulated sugar | 1 t. vanilla extract |

- Heat to 350°F. Coat 2 (8- or 9-inch) round cake pans with butter, then line bottom of each with a parchment paper round
- Place the flour, almond meal, baking soda, and baking powder in a large bowl and whisk until combined; set aside.
- Place the butter, sugar, and honey in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Beat on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.
- Beat in the eggs one at a time, fully incorporating each before adding the next. Beat in the yogurt, salt, and vanilla until combined. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides with a rubber spatula. Return the mixer to low speed and gradually add the flour mixture until just combined.
- Divide the batter evenly between the cake pans. Bake until the top bounces back when you gently press it, or a toothpick comes out clean when inserted into the center of the cake, 45 to 55 minutes.
- Let sit until cool enough to handle, about 20 minutes.

For the Honey Swiss Buttercream:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 4 large egg whites | ¾ C. honey |
| 1 C. granulated sugar | 2 t. vanilla extract |
| 3 ½ sticks unsalted butter at room temperature | |

- Fill a large saucepan halfway with water and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low.
- Place the egg whites and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer or large heatproof bowl. Fit the bowl over the saucepan and whisk constantly over the simmering water until the sugar is completely dissolved and the mixture is the temperature of a warm bath, 4 to 5 minutes.
- Place the bowl onto the stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment. Beat on medium speed for 1 minute. Increase the speed to high and beat until stiff peaks form and the bowl is no longer warm to the touch, 4 to 5 minutes more.
- Reduce the mixer to low speed and add the butter a few tablespoons at a time. Once all of the butter is added, increase the speed to medium and beat until smooth, 3 to 4 minutes. There will be a moment where you think everything is wrong. The frosting will look curdled, but just keep going. It will all work out! Beat in the honey and vanilla.

For the Raspberry Curd

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 6 T. butter | 2 T. lemon juice |
| 2 (6 ounce) containers fresh raspberries | ¼ t. lemon zest |
| 6 egg yolks, beaten | Pinch of salt |
| ¾ C. white sugar | |

- Melt butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat.
- Add raspberries, egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice, zest, and salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until curd coats the back of a spoon and is slightly thickened, 8 to 10 minutes.
- Strain curd through a fine mesh sieve, mashing the raspberries with the back of a spoon. Refrigerate.





GBA 2021 ARTISAN SHOW

CLASS B1A: SWEET MEADS

1st Place - Michael Minardi

CLASS B1B: DRY MEADS

2nd Place - Michael Minardi
Commendable - Jenna Laméy

CLASS B1C: VARIETAL MEADS

1st Place - Michael Minardi

CLASS B2: BEERS & ALES

2nd Place - Olivia Menard
Very Highly Comm. - Nancy Simpson

CLASS B3: HONEY BEVERAGES

1st Place - Michael Minardi
2nd Place - Virginia Webb
3rd Place - Nancy Simpson

CLASS F2: HONEY CAKE (OPEN RECIPE)

2nd Place - Deb Dewitt
3rd Place - Julia Mahood

CLASS F3: HONEY BREADS

1st Place - Linda Tillman

CLASS F4: HONEY CONFECTIONS

1st Place - Julia Mahood
2nd Place - Deb Dewitt
3rd Place - Virginia Webb
Highly Comm. - Linda Tillman

CLASS F5: HONEY CONDIMENTS

1st Place - Virginia Webb
2nd Place - Michael Minardi
3rd Place - Sandy Morehouse
Very Highly Comm. - Nancy Simpson
Highly Comm. - Linda Tillman

CLASS A1: ARTWORK

1st Place - Julia Mahood
2nd Place - Olivia Menard
3rd Place - Peter Helfrich

CLASS A2: CRAFTS

1st Place - Virginia Webb
2nd Place - David Holloman
3rd Place - Peter Helfrich

CLASS A3: NEEDLECRAFT

1st Place - Linda Tillman
2nd Place - Nancy Simpson

CLASS A4: NOTIONS, POTIONS, & LOTIONS

1st Place - Jenna Laméy
2nd Place - Nancy Simpson

CLASS A5A: PHOTOGRAPHY – OPEN

1st Place - Julia Mahood
2nd Place - Virginia Webb
3rd Place - Nancy Simpson

CLASS A5B: PHOTOGRAPHY – ESSAY

1st Place - Nancy Simpson
3rd Place - Olivia Menard

CLASS A5C: PHOTOGRAPHY – SELECTED TOPIC

Very Highly Comm. - Olivia Menard

CLASS A6: POETRY

1st Place - Nancy Simpson
2nd Place - Olivia Menard
3rd Place - Linda Tillman
Highly Comm. - Michael Minardi
Commendable - Virginia Webb

CLASS A7: ELECTRONIC MEDIA

2nd Place - Nancy Simpson

CLASS A8: FLORAL DISPLAY

2nd Place - Virginia Webb

CLASS A9: DECORATIVE DISPLAY

2nd Place - Virginia Webb

CLASS A11: HONEY LABEL

1st Place - Virginia Webb
2nd Place - Nancy Simpson

DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

Best Beverage: Varietal Mead (Strawberry Mead),
submitted by Michael Minardi

BEST CULINARY ITEM

Condiment (Ginger Yogurt Dip),
submitted by Virginia Webb

BEST ARTS & CRAFTS

Poetry, submitted by Nancy Simpson



BEST IN SHOW WINNER

Varietal Mead
(Strawberry Mead),
submitted by
Michael Minardi

*These are the true, genuine, and correct results, as
determined by the duly appointed judges.
This 6th day of February, 2021.*

Show Secretary Katie Goodman
Presiding/Senior Judge . . Brutz English, SWHJ
Judges Marilynn Parker, SWHJ
Kara Bassett, SWHJ

Julia Mahood

by *Linda Tillman*, GBA Past-President

Like many beekeepers, Julia read *The Secret Life of Bees* and found the idea of bees fascinating. But she didn't immediately begin beekeeping. In 2004, she and her mother went to the John C. Campbell Folk School where her mother took a music class and, on a whim, Julia took beginning beekeeping with Virginia Webb. Julia's had bees ever since!

Her first hive was an observation hive and she was the "coolest mom on the block with bees in the family room." Her kids all loved nature, so beekeeping was a great family activity. When she first got bees her kids were five and seven. Noah, her oldest, was particularly interested and, at age 16, became the youngest person ever to earn the Master Beekeeper certification in Georgia. He and his mother still share beekeeping when he is home for a visit.

For Julia, bees are "endlessly fascinating." She loves learning about their biology. Julia is particularly interested in drones. Listening to Deb Delaney at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in 2011 intrigued her as she learned about seeking Drone Congregation Areas (DCAs) with a helium-filled weather balloon. Her interest has grown from weather balloons to mechanical drones. Now, she maintains a citizen science website with the goal of getting people around the world to map their local DCAs by posting them on her

website. Researching, providing and maintaining this website is an example of Julia's volunteering on an international level. Because of Zoom and COVID, incredible opportunities have occurred for her that allow her to publicize these efforts around the country and the world.

Julia also volunteers both for her local bee club, MABA, and for GBA. In MABA, she has served on the board, has been vice-president, president and is now on the board as past president. In committee activities, she has led hive inspections, chaired the short course for several years, and has mentored and helped many individual beekeepers. For MABA's monthly meetings, Julia arranges the speakers and hosts, and plans the mentoring session topic each month.

As a volunteer for GBA, Julia is so omnipresent and such an influential figure in GBA decisions that most people think she serves on the board. Instead, she has held many other jobs. In 2015, Julia began working on the conference committee and has continued to serve on that committee ever since. She was the chief organizer of our second meeting at Lake Blackshear. She has run auctions at the meetings, suggested numerous speakers to invite, and often designed the programs for the meetings as well as had influential suggestions for efficient schedules for the conferences. In 2018, she and Rick Moore

(continued on next page)



To thank her for designing Georgia's Save The Honey Bee license plate, GBA awarded Julia BEE001 as her license plate number!

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

co-edited the newsletter, a job to which Julia brought her considerable graphic artist skills. She has volunteered her artistic ability in the creation of many GBA brochures and ads for conferences.

Julia's biggest contribution to GBA in terms of literal payoff for the club came when she designed the beautiful bee license plate that so many of us proudly display on the backs of our cars. To thank her, GBA awarded her BEE001 as her license plate number!

But the volunteer effort that Julia loves the most is her work as chair of the GBA prison beekeeping program. The prison work involves two jobs. Her favorite is her work teaching the ladies at Arrendale State Prison. "This is the most rewarding volunteer work ever - the ladies are so grateful to have bees in their lives." And Julia has the joy of introducing bees to people who haven't experienced them before as well as the pleasure of keeping bees with other people, which is always a lot of fun. She has new beekeepers in the program each season and really enjoys the hands-on teaching. And she admires the ingenuity of the prisoners who have very little to work with and still manage to complete beekeeping projects and even enter honey/artisan shows.

The second part of her prison chair work is recruiting volunteers for the other prison programs and helping guide those people as they set up the programs at other prisons. Julia has a lovely way of thinking about leadership. She appreciates creativity in others and enjoys watching different leadership styles as she grows in her own leadership abilities.

Nationally, Julia serves on the board of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, as well as on the board of the Bee Informed Partnership. These boards are both working boards with regular meetings and expectations for commitment from the board members.

In general, Julia loves volunteering for all of these bee organizations. She says, "People in the beekeeping community are incredibly grateful. It's great to see your work bearing fruit." She also notes that this type of volunteering is a way of stretching herself. As she teaches, she learns more and more. As she serves on boards, she finds out about the bigger beekeeping world that is much more complicated than the world of the hobbyist beekeeper.

GBA is so lucky to have Julia investing her energy with us. She is a tireless volunteer and brings her passion about her bees to her work with the people in beekeeping. *Thank you so much, Julia!* 🐝



Above: Julia demonstrates how to make Reusable Beeswax Wraps; Bobby Chaisson presents Julia with GBA's 2018 Beekeeper of the Year award; Evelyn Williams presents Julia with one of her many First Place awards at a Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Honey Show.



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

Never Fail (Almost Never!) Swarm Lure

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

While an old hive or old comb can serve as a swarm lure, this recipe was given to me years ago by someone in Italy who was commenting on catching a swarm on one of my blog posts. I use it every year and it works almost 100% of the time. This recipe is good for one bee season because the lemongrass oil loses its umph, its attraction abilities, by the end of bee season.

Recipe:

- 1 one-inch cube of beeswax
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 15 - 20 drops of lemongrass essential oil.

Take one one-inch cube of beeswax and melt it in ¼ cup olive oil. I do this by putting the olive oil in a glass measuring cup sitting in a saucepan of heated water. Drop the beeswax cube into the olive oil. Heat the whole thing slowly until the beeswax is melted. I like to help it along

by stirring with a wooden chopstick. When the wax has completely melted, remove the measuring cup from the hot water. Let it cool about a minute. Then use the chopstick to stir in 15 - 20 drops of lemongrass oil.

Then pour it into a container with a lid and put it in your inspection equipment box.

To use it effectively in a bait hive, spread a smear of the stuff around the hole in the inner cover. Wipe it on the tops of a couple of frames in the bottom box of your hive. Get some on the tip of your index finger and spread it on the top of the entrance to the hive (not on the landing - don't want those bees to have messy feet).

It can also be used in a hive box in which you are housing a captured swarm to help them want to stay.

Last year I caught a swarm in every hive in which I used this (three of them) - no effort and truly free bees! 🐝



Beeswax melting in olive oil



*Stirring with a tongue depressor
(generally I use a chopstick)*



Lemongrass essential oil



Container waiting to be used



Smear around the hole in the inner cover.



What Zoom Can Do For Your Club

by David Logue

The Clarks Hill Beekeepers club was able to host a GBA statewide meeting in February with Dr. Marla Spivak, a world renowned expert in beekeeping. This would not have been possible without the power of Zoom. The GBA Zoom committee worked with the club to set up a large meeting account that made it possible for us to share the meeting with all 46 local clubs and GBA members. 246 people registered. The GBA License Plate Fund committee provided a contribution to the University of Minnesota Honey Bee Lab as Dr Spivak's speaking fee.

Likewise, in January, the Clark's Hill club hosted a meeting with the Lake Country and Brier Creek clubs with Steven Coy, a certified Russian bee and Queen breeder.

Both meeting speakers were at a distant location and

normally would not have had the time to travel to speak at a club meeting. The Zoom meeting platform made it possible for these guests to meet with the clubs remotely. There was great interaction and a lot of questions asked and answered.

The Zoom and License Plate Funds committees are very accommodating in getting clubs what they need to make Zoom meetings like these possible. The Zoom committee members will get you started and, if needed, they will host your meeting.

The Zoom platform will remain a key asset for club meetings even when we are able to meet in person. To contact the Zoom committee, get in touch with **Jonathan Hayes** or **fill out this form to request a Zoom meeting time for your club or bee club committee.** 🐝

These links should be of use to every local president:

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.**
(You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia

The Appalachian Beekeepers is in the process of **fundraising for an outdoor classroom at the Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Georgia's Bud Champlin Memorial Apiary** at Talking Rock Nature Preserve in Pickens County, Georgia. It will be professionally built with a functional life of 20+ years. The plan is for a 16' x 20' structure with a poured concrete floor and open sides. It will have movable benches and work/demonstration tables.

The outdoor classroom and apiary will be available for other Georgia beekeeping groups to use for their programs. Talking



Rock Nature Preserve and Park is owned and managed by Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land. It is located at the Gilmer and Pickens county line and is easy to travel to from throughout north Georgia, including metro Atlanta. The preserve has a 10+ mile hiking and biking trail system, good parking, and is free for all public use. The apiary area is intended to benefit environmental stewardship and beekeeping across the region.

Please contact **Bill Norris, wnorris5@gmail.com** with comments and questions regarding your club's interest in this project. 🍯

Clark's Hill Beekeepers Association

The Clark's Hill Beekeepers hosted **Dr. Marla Spivak** for their February 1st virtual meeting. Through the cooperation of the GBA Zoom and License Plate Committees, the club was able to open the meeting to the statewide GBA Membership. Dr. Spivak spoke on the differences in hygienic behaviors and the positive effects of a propolis envelope on honey bee colony health. Her study noted a significant reduction in the pathogen load in colonies with a propolis envelope. She showed us the degree of surface roughness necessary to have this envelope constructed, and the profile they found to be most effective. It is significantly more rough than rough sawn lumber which was also tested.



Dr. Marla Spivak speaking via Zoom at the Clark's Hill club's February meeting. The presentation was made possible by GBA's Zoom committee with funding through the GBA License Plate fund. See the "What Zoom Can Do For Your Club" article on page 13 for more details.

The club's April meeting will feature **Paul Berry** talking about swarms. We will invite the Lake Country and Brier Creek Clubs to join us on April 5th, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. 🍯

NEW CLUB: Etowah River Beekeepers

A new colony has formed in the metro Atlanta area! **The Etowah River Beekeepers** group has clustered together to pool resources and reach out to the community to help better our beekeeping practices and educate the community about our favorite insects. The group is a wonderful blend of complete newbies, experienced hobbyists, sideliners, and a couple commercial keepers, open to all different methods of keeping bees. *Wow!* Talk about having resources and support right in your own backyard. The new club will meet monthly through Google Meet (on the 2nd Thursday of the month), and



hosts a weekly chat (Bee Babble) for any topics attendees would like to discuss – workshops, field trips, etc. These programs are designed to help people absorb new information in a timely manner, reiterate what's recently been learned, and network among the beekeeping community. **Check their Facebook page (facebook.com/etowahriverbeekeepers/)** often for announcements of upcoming events. Or, for more information, call Shannon at (770)377-2589.

Club News

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club held a Zoom meeting on Monday, January 18. The newly elected officers for 2021 are **Cory Momany** (President), **Madeleine Schwab** (VP), **Joe Conti** (Secretary), **Barbara Read** (Treasurer), **Elizabeth Gingle** (Communication), **Steven King** and **Georgia McPeak** (At-Large), and **Bruce Breedlove** (Librarian).

We were fortunate to have UGA's **Jennifer Berry** give us a ZOOM presentation titled "Keeping Bees Alive." She emphasized the Varroa mite as the biggest problem for bees, and presented evidence that the use of oxalic acid/glycerine with shop towels did not work well in Georgia. Jennifer advised doing a brood break in summer by caging or isolating the queen for a

period of time, in conjunction with various standard treatments such as oxalic vaporization to be the most effective way to keep mites under control.



President Cory Momany also congratulated **Joe Conti** for his article in the January 2021 issue of the *American Bee Journal* (ABJ). With Cory's article in the September 2020 issue, that makes two of our club members who have contributed articles to ABJ in the last five months. We also sent a donation to Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping to help support his non-funded, but valuable, honey bee research projects. Our February 15 Zoom meeting was short – a members' question and answer period followed by a board meeting. 🐝

NOW ENROLLING: Tara Beekeepers Association's Experiential Beekeeping Course

Tara Beekeepers Association is creating a beekeeping course targeting first-year (or inexperienced) beekeepers who have a desire for continual and in-depth knowledge of bees, and have either set up, or will be setting up, their first hives. This experiential course will follow the year and changing seasons, emphasizing hands-on learning in the bee yard. Classes will be held from April 18th through October 17th on the third Sunday of each month. Class time is from 10am-noon and will take place primarily at Tara's teaching apiary in Decatur, but may incorporate other locations. Some classes will take place via Zoom, but participants must be able to attend apiary classes in person.



The cost of the program is \$150 and includes a 2021 membership to Tara Beekeepers Association. Enrollment will be limited to 10 students. Tara will award one scholarship based on need to an individual (student or adult) who either is, or plans on becoming, a beekeeper. The scholarship recipient will assist the instructors with set up and cleanup of the teaching apiary.

To apply to the program or the scholarship, please contact tarabeekeepers@gmail.com 🐝

The program's goal is to provide a deeper understanding of bees, while building skill and confidence, plus making beekeeping fun through fellowship with like-minded student beekeepers. Coursework consists of Zoom-style learning, providing the fundamentals of beekeeping, *i.e.*, bee biology, pests, nutrition, swarm control, hive management, etc, with hands-on practical knowledge learned by observing and handling bees. The hands-on portion of our classes will take place with the guidance of an experienced beekeeper. While we have a lot of information to share, the class will be flexible and relaxed. Time commitment for course attendees will be 2-4 hours per month.

Safety is of utmost importance and we are still weighing the right balance of Zoom vs. hands-on practical work in the bee yard. Everyone in the bee yard will wear appropriate safety gear, as well as masks. A schedule of classes will be forthcoming.

Students will receive:

- Mentorship of an experienced beekeeper
- Answers to all of your beekeeping related questions
- Opportunity to visit different apiaries to see how other beekeepers keep their bees
- Opportunity to see a honey harvest
- A 1-hour visit by one of our experienced beekeepers to your home apiary
- Confidence that comes with knowing more about how to care for bees

Tri-State Beekeepers Club



Tri-State Beekeepers club president Eddie Gwaltney snapped a picture of member – founder and past-president Derick Fowler – at his new bee, poultry, and supply store in Rossville, Georgia. Derick, shown on the left near the camera, is presenting a beginning beekeeping class in the store.

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

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	Tattall
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 Building 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 Center 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			cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm			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			spposey@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	April 5	Swarms, Paul Berry	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 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	March 16	Building a Simple Bee Vacuum – Rick Moore	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebuz123@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm			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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

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			lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeepers.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	March 16	Predicting Bee Health in a Changing World – Christina Grozinger, Ph.D. Department of Entomology, Penn State University	gailjdean@gmail.com	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus 338 Epps Mtn Ln, Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream.net	Union, Towns, 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 Dr., 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 Education 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	March 15	Spring Management and Build Up – PN Williams	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 Rd., Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	March 8	Honey Bee Swarms & How To Collect Them – Kathy Bourn	info@tricitybeekeepers.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	March 22	Hive Management, Reading Frames and Doing Splits	kingapiary@gmail.com	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.*

Quick Lip Tip

by Kelley Campbell



Always wear a veil! When bees sting on the lips . . . it's usually not convenient. It may be nice to have free Botox in BOTH lips, but *NO lip stings would have been better!* 🐝





Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I *'m optimistic!* In Georgia, by the beginning of April we are all well into swarm season. Our bees can't help themselves – *they* are optimistic. They behave as if all is going to be all right in order to reproduce. I was the lucky recipient of a swarm already put in a box for me. A call came in about a beekeeper catching his own bees' swarm. He had no more additional equipment, so he offered it to our local swarm group and I got to go pick it up – boxed and ready to travel. What a treat that was! He made me feel optimistic about the bees and the beekeepers. Beekeepers are known for their optimism.

I hope all of you will read carefully a couple of articles in this edition of our newsletter. One is about **Hives for Heroes**, a beekeeping non-profit for veterans (see page 4). The other is about the **Bee Informed Partnership's annual colony loss survey** (see page 5). Both of these deserve your attention and time. Please read and then think about how you can assist your local club support a veteran newbie. Also, take this year's BIP survey to help give their researchers the raw data they need to better understand how factors like management practices, forage, pests, diseases, and nutrition impact the health of our honey bees. GBA is proud of what we have done for veterans' beekeeping programs and our level of BIP survey participation. *Let's be optimistic and go BIG on both this year!*

Finally, I am optimistic about our fall conference planned for September 23-25 in Gainesville, GA – *yes, an actual in-person, live, in-the-same-room-with-each-other conference!* Yippee! You will find more information about our keynote speakers in this issue (see page 13) and more details in future newsletter editions. I can't wait to see all of us together again and enjoy each other's company. 🐝

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association





GBA's Video Library

GBA's primary mission is to provide education for beekeepers and for the public about beekeeping. Throughout this last year of COVID isolation, your GBA Zoom committee has gradually accumulated a large collection of video talks to add to the educational opportunities for Georgia beekeepers.

Over the past year, the library has grown and now contains more than 50 talks on multiple helpful beekeeping subjects. Our generous speakers throughout the state willingly allowed us to record talks that they gave via Zoom to local clubs. We have also added recorded talks by the keynote and breakout speakers at our two virtual conferences to the library. Some of the talks have a time limit on them (we can keep them for a year, for example) and others have no limit at all.

This library can be an immense resource for your club. If you do not have a speaker or a topic for a monthly meeting, **contact the Zoom committee** and we can arrange to show one of these talks to your club via Zoom. This can happen whether your club is meeting in person or on Zoom. If your club is meeting in person, as long as there is an Internet connection or a hot spot available at your meeting place, we can offer one of our GBA library videos to your club meeting.

For the next three weeks, we are providing you with this link to see any video in the library so you can sample some of the talks and see what you might want to share with your club. You can learn how to make splits from Paul Berry, or make lollipops from honey with Bethany Beck. Safety in the bee yard can be learned from either Mary Cahill Roberts or Jimmy Gatt. You can watch a talk on the winter bee from Bill Dunn or learn about bee lining from Dan Long. *And that's just a small sample of what is available!*

For the entire past year, we allowed you to use these videos with no financial compensation for our speakers.



When a speaker puts together a video for you, it takes a lot of time, creativity, and effort. Most speakers revise their talks over and over and spend lots of effort to do it well.

This year we want to encourage you, even when you watch a recorded talk from the video library, to send a check for the usual speaker fee to the speaker whose talk you watched. A typical speaker's fee today is \$100 - \$150.

And if your club is not well-funded for supporting speaker fees, **click here to apply for the license plate funds** which are designated for educational uses. Several local clubs have already been applying for plate funds to cover their speakers. What better educational use of the funds than to pay for the fees of the speakers from whom you learn? With license plate grants, your club can have a funded speaker at every single meeting!

We love to make our videos available for your club's monthly programs. **Sample the wide range of topics in the GBA video library and let us know when you'd like to show one.**

The GBA Zoom Committee is here for you:

- Jonathan Hayes, Lead
- Gina Gallucci
- Karen Palmer
- Linda Tillman 🍯

These links should be of use to every local president:

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

New Structural Bee Removal Rules are Coming

by **Brutz English**, GBA Legislative Committee

NOTE: There has been some online discussion of this issue over the past few months, and unfortunately a fair amount of misinformation has spread regarding this issue and the GBA's involvement with this process. The following is a brief report on where the process stands, and what we can expect from the Georgia Department of Agriculture going forward. To read the full version, click here.

Around 18 months ago, the GBA was notified by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GADA) that the process was beginning to revisit and rewrite the 70 year old rule on structural honey bee removals currently on the books. The GBA formed a committee to investigate the matter and to work with the GADA on the new rule(s). The committee reached out to the GADA and

The Georgia Department of Agriculture's proposed rule change for bee removals will replace the existing outdated rule with a more practical, far less stringent alternative.

protection agency. The GADA wants a rule(s) to protect consumers (home and property owners) from unscrupulous business people. The GBA wanted to do everything we could to make sure the new rule(s) would be as minimally intrusive and burdensome on our state's beekeepers as possible.

This is not the creation of a "new" rule where no regulation previously existed. This is the replacement of an outdated rule with a more practical, far less stringent alternative. Under the current rule, if you are going to do a structural bee removal, you need to have a structural pest control license (*i.e.*, what the Orkin Man has). A structural pest control license is both costly and time-consuming (at least two years) to obtain.

If you don't have the license and get caught doing structural bee removals, there is the threat of a \$10,000 fine looming over your head. To my knowledge this rule has *never* been enforced, and to my knowledge no one has

ever been ticketed or fined – but the threat is always there. The combination of the difficulty and expense of obtaining the proscribed license, plus the widely-known absence of any meaningful threat of penalty, means practically everyone ignores the existing rule.



The GADA had a list of things that were going to be included in the rule. It was made very plain that these items were non-negotiable. If we didn't include them in the language we proposed, then GADA was going to include them in the finished rule with the language

of their choosing. Some of the new rule requirements will include the following:

- A licensing/registration requirement.
- A training and certification requirement.
- New, clear definitions including what is, and what is not, allowed under the new rule(s), *e.g.*, free-hanging swarms WILL NOT be regulated under the new rule(s), and "honey bees" will be specifically removed and exempted from the list of insects categorized as "pests."
- Operators will be required to use a written contract.
- Operators are going to be required to obtain/maintain liability insurance.
- Provisions for regular enforcement and penalties for non-compliance. There will be a grace period between when the new rules are adopted and when enforcement will begin, so current operators will have time to get into compliance.

These are not the final rules, but rather a summary of what those rules are going to address.

This project has been a collaborative effort, and the GADA has invited the GBA's input and given us a tremendous voice in the crafting of the new rule(s). The GADA ultimately will make its own decision about what provisions and language to include in the final version of the new rule(s). Whatever specific language the new rules use, it is clear they will be far less burdensome to comply with and much more practical from a beekeeping perspective. Once the formal rules are finalized by the GADA, the GBA will disseminate them, and almost certainly offer training and educational programs on the new rule(s). 🍯

HIVES FOR HEROES



Hives for Heroes is a national military veteran non-profit organization focusing on honey bee conservation, suicide prevention, and a healthy transition from service. Through a national network of beekeepers and veterans, the organization provides purpose, education, and healthy relationships fostering a lifelong hobby in beekeeping.

After military service, many veterans often fall into depression, unhealthy relationships and addictive behaviors which leads to feeling alone, isolated, or becoming suicidal. Hives for Heroes strives to connect with veterans to provide a family-friendly community.

Newbee veterans and mentors enjoy the therapeutic process of beekeeping and build healthy relationships in communities across America. Beekeeping is unique, allowing a beekeeper to suit up, overcome fear, accomplish a goal through process-oriented techniques, and walk away with a sense of accomplishment. For veterans struggling to resume civilian life, this practice can translate to their personal and professional lives when dealing with PTSD and other traumas related to their service.

A veteran mentor in Houston struggled in all of these areas, turned to alcohol to cope, then attempted to take his life in 2017. With a newfound outlook on life, the passion to serve

others, and connect with veterans going through similar situations motivated him to become involved.

A veteran newbie in Texas joined Hives for Heroes because of a love for science, bees, and learning. Their desire and passion to acquire knowledge has motivated them to deeply connect with mentors in advanced beekeeping activities like queen rearing. Through the nationwide network of beekeepers, Hives for Heroes is able to connect and empower veterans in their pursuit of purpose and joy.

Hives for Heroes wants to connect people. By bettering the lives of individuals there is a positive impact on their community and ultimately the world. Through honey bee conservation, there is a common goal to work towards.

To learn how to get involved and support Hives for Heroes visit hivesforheroes.com!

Veterans interested in beekeeping as a newbies or a mentors willing to connect and teach veterans can apply online at hivesforheroes.com/the-hive. Hives for Heroes is officially in all 50 states and is constantly searching for accomplished beekeeping mentors who have at least three years of experience.

Check us out @hivesforheroes on social media and use our hashtags #saveBEEssaveVETS #BEEaHero. 🐝

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL COLONY LOSS SURVEY

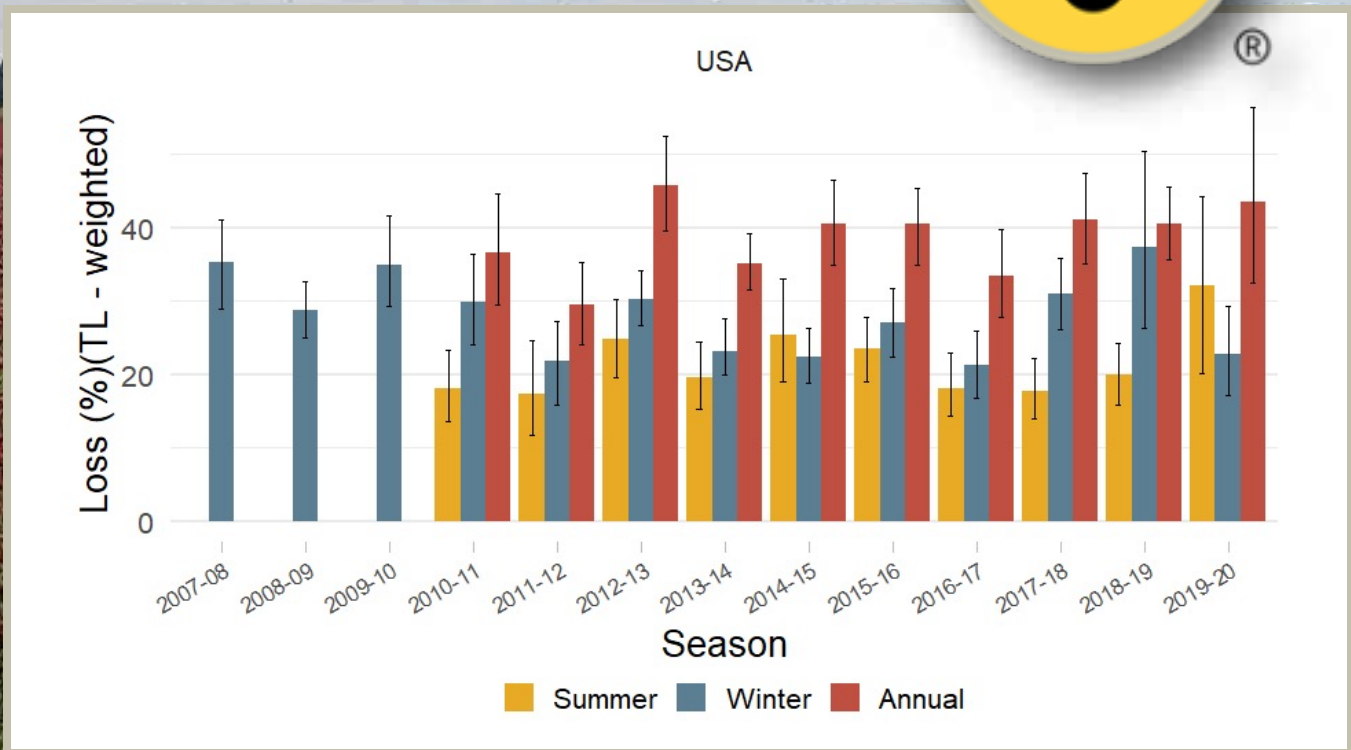
It's time to participate in the Bee Informed Partnership's annual **National Colony Loss and Management Survey**. Information that GBA members – and beekeepers across the country – supply helps BIP researchers better understand how factors like management practices, forage, pests, diseases, and nutrition impact honey bee health. The annual Loss and Management Survey has served as a key barometer of honey bee health in the US since 2007.

This year's online survey kicks off on April 1. It is shorter than ever before and focused on queens and new colonies. Loss Survey questions have also been adapted for commercial beekeepers.

GBA is proud of its high rate of participation in the past and encourages all of our members and clubs to record their numbers as part of this annual survey. To participate, visit beeinformed.org and take the survey between April 1 - 30.

BIP survey findings will be reported back to the beekeeping community and the general public, to help everyone better understand the state of honey bee populations nationwide. BIP provides a wealth of educational resources and information on the importance of honey bees to our food supply and issues impacting honey bee health. To explore data from past years' survey and research results, visit beeinformed.org.

Be Included. Be Involved. Bee Informed. 



BIP's annual Loss and Management Survey has served as a barometer of honey bee health in the US since 2007.



The Virtual Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the latest honey bee research and applied beekeeping techniques.

This year's virtual conference features Professor Robin Crewe, Dr. Kirsten Traynor, and Jerry Hayes plus numerous other talented beekeepers and scientists.

May 13-14
Online



For more information: bees.caes.uga.edu/yhc-uga-beekeeping-institute

2021 marks the 30th year of the Young Harris College / University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute. Each year, the Institute's goal is to bring the best beekeeping educators and scientists in the English-speaking world for the benefit of our attendees. The result is quite

simply one of the best beekeeping educational events in North America. This year's virtual conference will be held May 13 and 14. **Registration and program information will be available April 1st, 2021 on the UGA Honey Bee Program website.** 🍯

Georgia Master Beekeeper Program Certified Testing to be Offered this Spring

Since UGA's Young Harris Beekeeping Institute will be held virtually again this year, **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association** and **Tri County Beekeeper Associations** will be offering the certified level beekeeper written and practical exams. The certified test is the first step in the UGA master beekeeping program and provides a great opportunity for beekeepers to further their beekeeping knowledge and skills. *Hurrah for their willingness to administer the tests!*

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association will hold their testing session on April 24 (rain date May 1) at Blue Heron Nature Preserve's Field Research Center. **Tri County Beekeepers will hold their session on May 23** at the Lanier Bee Barn. Enrollment is limited. Please contact them for complete details and to register. Journeyman and master level testing will be offered at the GBA's Fall Conference, September 23-25. Watch for more details to be announced on **the UGA Bee Lab website** shortly. 🍯

EAS 2021 CONFERENCE

Shepherdsville, KY

August 11-13, 2021



The conference will be held at the Paroquet Springs Conference Centre, Shepherdsville, Bulitt County, Kentucky on August 11-13th, 2021. Shepherdsville is an approximate 15 minute drive from the International and Regional Airports in Louisville, KY and is readily accessible from major interstates.

The conference will offer two tracks - a presentation based and apiary based track in a relaxed setting providing an excellent opportunity to “Bee Connected” - something we have all been struggling hard to maintain over the past year.

PRESENTATION TRACK:

Some of the speakers featured in the presentation track include:

C. Bee	John Benham
Deborah Delaney	Jamie Ellis
Kevin Inglin	Tammy Horn Potter
Juliana Rangel	Kent Williams.

APIARY TRACK

The apiary track is being organized by Jennifer Keller and Don Hopkins. Topics being developed for the conference include: how to inspect hives, checking for varroa mites with sugar shakes and alcohol washes, brood diseases in the hive, queen considerations (identifying, requeening), how to make splits, sampling to test for *Tropilaelaps* and testing for hygienic qualities.



REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN EARLY MAY FOR EAS MEMBERS - NOTIFICATION WILL BE BY EMAIL AND THE EAS WEBSITE.

There will be an outdoor BBQ on Friday, August 13th that is included in the \$300 registration fee for the 3-day conference.
No walk in registrations will be accepted and masks and social distancing will be maintained throughout.

THE JOURNEY FROM PACKAGES TO BETTER COLONY MANAGEMENT

– PART 1 –

Note: This is the first in a series of articles that could be useful to beginners and those struggling to keep their bees alive.

A typical strategy to supplement winter bee loss is to buy packages. Packages have their place in our apiaries in many situations, but what I have observed brings to mind the old saying: “Doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results is the definition of insanity.” I now buy more expensive nucs for the simple reason that they come as a functioning hive with visible brood development and queen acceptance.

Package bees generally accept the queen which came with the package. Although I have bought packages in the past because of their lower cost, generally, within the first month, 20 to 33 percent of those package queens are lost. In the next three months, losses are in the 15 to 20 percent range. Both require purchasing replacement queens, which can be challenging during the high-demand period of spring.

This sequence of events when using packages adds both time and cost to our operation. Failing to check these hives regularly can lead to colony loss – *definitely expensive and not conducive to sustainable beekeeping!*

In 2019, after suffering significant winter losses, I decided to change my approach. Only eight out of my 24 hives survived the fall-winter of 2019. (While I always perform regular mite treatments, I still lose more hives in apiaries located in windy areas.) Here is how I treat for mites:

- The first treatment with oxalic acid is in the February-March time frame, weather/brood dependent.
- The second treatment is with formic acid pads between the spring and sourwood flows.
- The third major treatment is in the August-September period to allow the queen to produce healthy winter bees.
- The fourth treatment is oxalic acid when the colony is broodless to ensure mites are gone for the winter months.

In 2019, I lost most of my hives during September and October. This situation wasn't due to mites, but to failing queens and an invasion of hornets and wasps. Since my standard approach to beekeeping had become untenable, I decided to adapt. In early March, my remaining hives were strong, permitting the addition of multiple hive bodies. Two had a total of six hive bodies and all were full of bees by mid-April. I then ordered Carniolan queens from a reputable source. Splitting the “super” hives created 30



by **Bob Grant**,
Turning Creek
Artisans

strong hives by mid-May.

With this strategy, I purposefully decided to raise bees instead of gathering spring honey. I moved the existing eight queens to the new splits and added the new queens to the remaining stock. By making all of these splits, we avoided swarms that year. Next, I installed wasp traps around my apiaries and caught many predators. I use community feeders to discourage robbing and to monitor wasps. I killed a significant number of wasp/hornet queens at the community feeders as they must forage to support their brood due to their losses.

Because of the aggressive splitting, the spring wildflower flow produced little spare honey but resulted in a fantastic sourwood flow. The hive bodies were packed to the point of being honey-bound. The bees filled the hive bodies and only partially filled the supers.

The honey season finished with a loss of six hives in late fall. Two were at each end of the line, which is aligned with the prevailing wind (likely leading to bee drift.) The other loss was due to a failed queen. Three were at the main apiary and happened during the fall when I was not watching the wasps/hornets as closely.

My winter losses were around five percent. This year, I will continue to follow this process of making many splits to deal with my losses, rather than buying replacement packages. But I will slightly modify my strategy to allow for more spring flow honey. I think this is better colony management for my hives. 🍯



Packages have their place in our apiaries in many situations, but what I have observed brings to mind the old saying: “Doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results is the definition of insanity.”

Harvest Hoffman

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Harvest Hoffman works quietly behind the scenes on the GBA website almost every Friday morning. She fields email questions from people wanting to buy bees and bee products, or from people wanting to list their bee products on the GBA webpage. She manages the forms that local clubs fill out when their officers change. She changes the front page of the website on a regular basis to represent what is important to GBA today. When a conference is on the horizon, she posts the program. When the license plate was first introduced, she put it front and center on the GBA webpage.

Her work goes on regularly to help all of us in GBA, yet many GBA members have no idea how much she does for us. She is a relatively invisible volunteer.

Harvest and her husband Tim met in high school in Illinois and have been together ever since. They moved

to Georgia for the warmth. Harvest now works for Gulfstream Aerospace and Tim works for FlightSafety, both Savannah-based companies. Luckily, they can both work from home since they have recently relocated from the Savannah area to the north Georgia mountains near Dahlonega. Now they are off-grid and supply their own electric power through solar panels. Their internet service comes through their cell phone service, but it's enough to allow both of them lots of computer time.

(continued on next page)



Harvest Hoffman with one of her livestock-guarding Great Pyrenees

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

Harvest began keeping bees in 2012. Tim had suggested that they take up beekeeping several years before that, but the real impetus for beekeeping was that Harvest's mother began an apiary at her home in Illinois. While weather issues are different in Illinois than in Georgia, beekeeping gave them a new common interest. Harvest said, "We've always been interested in homesteading, and had been gardening and canning for years. And then my mom started talking about beekeeping and started her apiary. Of course that meant that we had to start keeping as well. So we went to the FUNDamentals of Beekeeping at CEBA and we were both hooked."

When asked what is fulfilling to her about keeping bees, Harvest's answer was simple: "Everything." In addition to the time in the hives which she finds peaceful and calming, Harvest has also enjoyed mentoring new beekeepers.

When Bill Owens stepped down from the webmaster position in 2016, Harvest was glad to take on the project. She designed a new site for GBA and has maintained and changed it to meet our needs over the past five years. She has done other web-building side work as well. For example, she designed Jennifer Berry's website. She says she enjoys "being creative behind a computer."

The challenges of being the webmaster are many. She wishes she could do all the revamping of the site that she would like to do, but finding time is always a challenge. She appreciates getting information promptly and that doesn't always happen. She wishes bee clubs in the GBA community would fill out the forms on the site regularly to help us know when officers and meeting information have changed. As a volunteer (like everyone who works for GBA), Harvest recognizes the limits of all volunteer positions and doesn't like it when people act like GBA should address every issue yesterday.

When asked about what she thinks are the strengths and weaknesses of GBA, Harvest said, "The number one strength would have to be the conferences – the speakers, the sharing of ideas, the meeting of new people are all fantastic. I think they make everyone stronger beekeepers." In terms of areas for GBA to improve, Harvest notes that GBA seems very "Atlanta-centric" and that often voices south of Atlanta are not included and not heard. And Harvest, who sits on the GBA Board as voting member, often doesn't get important notifications of GBA

decisions that might be made by a small GBA committee or board group.

In addition to her work on the website, Harvest has printed out the name tags for the conferences in Milledgeville and Griffin. That is a huge job, always done by a team of volunteers. She designed the tags to indicate who was a member and who was not, who had paid for dinner and who had not. Another huge volunteer job for Harvest (and Tim) was their work on the by-laws committee that rewrote the GBA bylaws five years ago for the member vote. She, Tim, and that committee spent many, many hours on that project.

In their new farm location in the mountains, Harvest and Tim plan to expand their apiary extensively. They eventually want to be sideliners and raise bees to sell along with their honey. But for now they are happy pursuing their dream of homesteading. The day of this interview the new baby goats had just arrived. They recently welcomed new livestock-guarding Great Pyrenees dogs as well. Tim is busy building stalls for the goats and learning to blacksmith. They are giddy with the happiness of this dream becoming a reality.

Meanwhile GBA is so lucky to have Harvest, working steadily behind the scenes, keeping our website up to date and functioning. 🐝



Harvest with new baby goat friend. She and her husband Tim are homesteaders in north Georgia.



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: The Handy Box

by *Kathy Bourn*

I started out looking for a container I could use when harvesting honey. I harvest honey a frame or bar at a time so I needed a lightweight box that I could hang the honey frame in and then close it up quickly before every bee in the neighborhood was on it.

I looked through my collection of “stuff I might use one day” and saw a plastic office file container . . . *perfect!* The 12-gallon size is just right, even for deep frames if needed, and the lid is attached and closes quickly. All I had to do was put in a way to hang the honey.

After going to my “collection” spot again (we don't like to use the word hoarding), I found pieces of metal framing for window screens. I dremeled holes in the side of the box and slipped them through.

Here's a tip if you cut or drill plastic; it works best to put a piece of heavy tape over the area first to keep it from cracking and use a dull or metal cutting drill bit. To hold the metal in place, I just put silicone caulk around the holes. You could use any sturdy rod or even a threaded rod if you'd like to attach it with washers and nuts. I use big binder clips to keep the frames or bars from sliding when

the box isn't full.

This box is handy for more than just honey harvesting. You can use it as a lightweight catch box for swarms. I use it as a safe place to temporarily put a frame with a queen or queen cell on it. You can also have this box handy to move a split or brood frames when needed. It can simply act as a frame rest during hive inspections. I made a second box with the bars set a little lower to accommodate my top bars because they have handles on them. I also use this lightweight box to carry extra tools around when I work outside my home bee yard.

If I bought a box, I would get one that isn't clear. I think the bees would be calmer in a dark box. All in all, this has proven to be a very handy box. Another important tip is to not set your smoker on the lid, even if you think it's cool... *it usually isn't!* 🐝



Left: Two of Kathy's Handy Boxes. Above (clockwise): Metal framing from window screens serve as hang bars and are secured with silicone caulk; The boxes can be used when harvesting or performing inspections; Binder clips secure frames in place and prevent sliding if the box is not full; By setting the hang bars lower, the box can accommodate top bar frames with handles.



ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.



HONEY BALSAMIC VINEGAR

(As a Goat Cheese Drizzle)

By Nancy Simpson

1st Place Winner - 2021 GBA Artisan Show

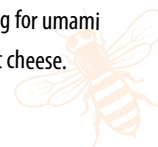
I milk my goats twice a day and make fabulous cheese. This condiment combines my two passions: goats and bees. Use this sauce to drizzle over a goat cheese/Chevre log. Spread on rosemary date crisps. *Heaven!*

INGREDIENTS

- Aged Italian balsamic vinegar
- Honey
- Maggi seasoning

PREPARATION

Whisk 2 parts vinegar, 1 part honey, dash of Maggi seasoning for umami flavor. Drizzle over goat cheese.



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.](#)

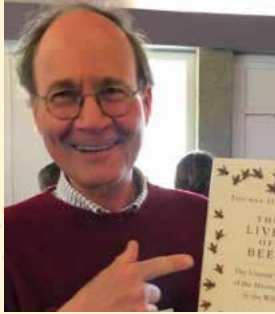
POSTCARD



Lorraine Kaliher sent us this interesting photo from the Grand Hotel in Germany where her son traveled, showing their unique method of serving fresh honey a la carte for breakfast. Would make a great project for one of GBA's many talented artisans!

Our GBA Fall Conference Speakers

Meet the wonderful people who will be keynote speakers at our GBA Fall Conference! If we are lucky enough to meet in person, we will also have a fifth person invited to speak to our dinner at the conference which will be on Friday night this year. And, of course, we will have our usual stellar line-up of break-out session speakers for you to enjoy, too!



DR. TOM SEELEY

Dr. Tom Seeley, author of *Honey Bee Democracy*, *Find the Wild Bees*, and *The Lives of Bees*, is a renowned scientist and researcher in the bee world. Most of us have read his findings about how bees decide where to live after swarming. His newest book is about how wild bees survive while others do not.



DR. VICTORIA SOROKER

Dr. Victoria Soroker is an outstanding researcher and entomologist in Israel. She knows a lot about honey bee pheromones and has done much research on the ongoing chemical communication of the Varroa mite in the beehive. Dr. Soroker will be joining us on a big screen via Zoom from Israel. She is an entertaining and energetic speaker.



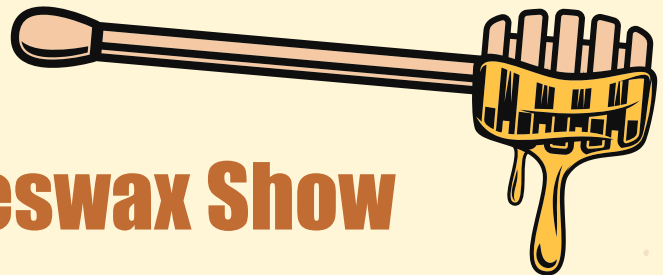
DR. JONATHAN LUNDGREN

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren is a former USDA entomologist with USDA. USDA didn't like his research on the impact of pesticides on bees and tried to stop his projects. Lundgren fought back on the grounds of the ethics espoused by USDA that research can't be suppressed just because the results might not be good for Big Ag or the pesticide manufacturing companies. Now no longer with USDA (*imagine that!*) he runs an ecological enterprise and continues his research at his Blue Dasher Farm in South Dakota.



DR. GEOFF WILLIAMS

Dr. Geoff Williams grew up in Canada but now makes his home at the bee lab at Auburn University. In addition to his bee lab at Auburn, Geoff also is the president of the board of directors of the Bee Informed Partnership and the vice-president of COLOSS. His research focuses on improving bee health. Geoff is a warm speaker and makes any topic fun.



PLUS:

The 2021 Honey & Beeswax Show

The annual GBA State Honey & Beeswax Show is traditionally THE place to show off your finest honey and beeswax. However, this Fall's Honey Show is going to be extra-special! This event will be our first face-to-face, in-person meeting in over a year-and-a-half! *We want to see everybody there!*

Aside from the renewed camaraderie, honey show participants will enjoy the thrill of possibly taking home one of the coveted "State Champion" blue ribbons *and some serious bragging rights!* Also, for those of us needing to buy some new beekeeping equipment, this year's honey show is boasting over \$4,500 in potential prize money! So, go on and get out there into your bee colonies and make some honey and beeswax! We are going to have a great and exciting show this September at the Fall Conference, and we can't wait to see you all there!

***Complete show rules will be published on the GBA website under the "Events" tab.**

SPRING BLOOMS

The girls are out and about looking for all the goodies spring has to offer. Here are just a sampling of the plants they're finding this spring. Identify what's blooming in your area to better understand what resources are available for your bees! 🐝

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Autumn Olive | 7. Purple Dead Nettle |
| 2. Chinese Redbud | 8. Winter Honeysuckle |
| 3. Dutch Clover | 9. Judas Tree |
| 4. Pear | 10. Dandelion |
| 5. Ornamental Peach | 11. Pearlbush |
| 6. Carolina Jasmine | 12. Yoshino Cherry |



Photo credits: 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, Lorraine Kaliher; 2, 5, 7, 11, Kathy Bourn; 12. Peter Helfrich

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, March 16th at Fairfield Inn in Perry with in-person as well as Zoom attendees. The program "Building a Bee Vacuum" was presented by **Rick Moore**. At our April 20th meeting, Journeyman Beekeeper and Chair of Decatur, GA's Bee City USA committee, **Peter Helfrich** will be speaking on native bees, including mason bees. Heart of Georgia will be meeting at Life Church, located at Todd Road and Hwy 41 at 7:00 PM on April 20th. All are welcome. Check us out at www.HOGBA.org. 🍯



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association has been able to host larger than normal Zoom Meetings thanks to the GBA Zoom Committee and all of those in the state of Georgia who have purchased the GBA "Save the Honey Bee" license plate. Our February meeting, featuring Master Craftsman Beekeeper **Cindy Hodges**, met the 100 attendee limit! The Zoom Committee came to the rescue and moved us to the conference account. We are now able to invite other clubs to attend our meetings, which we did in March for speaker **Christina Grozinger**. On April 20th we are thrilled to have nationally renowned speaker, **Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda**, discussing our least favorite pest, Varroa mites. We look forward to inviting other clubs to join us. If you aren't using Zoom for your meetings, contact **GBA's Zoom account representatives** and try it out! It's easy and is a great way to stay in contact with your membership. 🍯

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club met on March 15th via Zoom. It was decided to continue Zoom meetings until conditions are safe to resume. In the planning stages is a multi-club (northeast Georgia) jamboree in October, in-person, at the park in Winterville, GA (just east of Athens). We also encouraged members to attend the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in May and the GBA Fall Conference in September. The business part of the meeting was then followed by two PowerPoint Presentations by Secretary **Joe Conti** on swarms and swarm prevention by doing splits. 🍯



Tri County Beekeepers

Recently Tri-County beekeepers were able to take advantage of the GBA license plate fund. We worked with the **City of Gillsville** to allow us to plant 15 pollinator friendly plants and trees at the city park where we hold our meetings. Our members met at the city park along with members of metro Atlanta Beekeepers the Georgia Forestry Commission and the city of Gillsville, to not only plant the trees but also clean up around the park building.



Through the coordinated efforts of **Jimmy Gatt** (Metro Atlanta Beekeepers), **Dan Long** and many others, we were able to acquire and plant trees that will give many years of forage for our bees and other pollinators in the area. This will also allow our club a great opportunity to teach people about the importance of pollinator friendly plants in our area as well as across the state.

Thank you to all of the people who made this possible and participated in planting the trees. This is a great project other local clubs could undertake in their areas. 🍯



Jimmy Gatt, David Holloman, Bobby Chaisson and others planted pollinator-friendly plants and trees in Gillsville, GA.

Club News

Troup County Association of Beekeepers

Troup County Association of Bee Keepers are excited about 2021. We have a newly elected Club President, **Frank Smith**. Frank serves our community as an employee with the City of LaGrange Police Department as well as managing multiple bee hives in Troup County. Our New Beekeeper's Class was held on February 9th at Rogers Barbeque in Hogansville and had nine new members in attendance. At our February meeting, we had our GBA Area Director, **Brutz English** bring a presentation on "Spring Management" and our March meeting had club member **Phillip Benefield** come to present on flowers and plants that benefit our bees. 🍯



The Advantages of Multi-Club Meetings in COVID Times

by Kelley Campbell

Thanks to the GBA's recently expanded Zoom account, and those lovely license plates, the **Beekeepers of Gwinnett County** were able to have **Keith Fielder** speak at their March virtual meeting a few weeks ago. Keith presented his talk about how it takes 40 days for a bee to become a forager, and what we, as beekeepers, need to be aware of before,

Consider inviting other GBA clubs to your monthly meetings. There are some benefits – a huge one being we don't have long drives to see some great presentations.

during, and after those 40 days. He graciously answered a lot of questions on and off his planned topic, until his voice was nearly gone! We all signed off as stronger managers of our bees than we were logging in. (Note: *If your club hasn't seen this presentation, please*

encourage your club president/organizer to get this from the GBA library!)

Like many of you, I am far from a fan of this virtual world we have been navigating for far too long. Many companies, groups of friends, sports, and other networks have truly suffered due to this social disconnect. *Our local bee clubs are no exception!* It's frustrating to work hard through many seasons to join people with common interests to better us all, only to have it ripped from underneath us and see the enthusiasm slowly dwindle among individuals, and to feel clubs lose their momentum.

In an effort to maintain what little momentum we all have,

Mike Conner, the president of the Gwinnett club, invited a few surrounding clubs – including one 'little' club that literally pulled together in the past few weeks – to attend their March meeting. When I casually jumped on, mouth full of dinner – thinking I may see 8 to 10 people and my manners wouldn't actually matter – what a surprise to see 48 people in that Zoom meeting! Forty-eight! **FORTY-EIGHT!** I don't think I've been in a virtual meeting with that many people outside of the keynote speaker at the GBA conference, or a mandatory seminar for work!

Then, I attended the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association meeting and saw 104 participants logged on! Gail Dean, president of MABA, presented Dr. Christina Grozinger, Director for the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research, to speak to members and guests about local landscape and weather conditions and its influence on honey bee health. Attendees heard how to make good decisions to support our bees. Again, a HUGE crowd using the Zoom platform to hear this information in real-time, thanks to an organizer reaching out and extending the invitation to additional clubs.

I encourage all of us to consider inviting other groups to our meetings while we wrap up this quarantine thing. There are some benefits – a huge one being we don't have long drives to see some great presentations. Let's pick up with face-to-face meetings and events with a stronger following than we had this time last year when we were shocked with the shut down!

To follow either of these clubs, please click **Beekeepers of Gwinnett, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association**, or **find a closer club here.** 🍯

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Oak Park Community House 106 NW Railroad Ave, Oak Park, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	April 5	Swarms & Bee Removals/Cut-Outs-- Karen Palmer	grnhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Emanuel
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 Building 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			gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA 30540	2nd Monday, 7:00pm			Beekeepersofgilmercounty@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			cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environ Learning Cntr, 3535 S. Lumpkin Rd. and GA & the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus	2nd Monday, 6:00pm			beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 32 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			beegirl30747@outlook.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm			weekworks@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	April 5	Swarms and Swarm-Collecting - Paul Berry, Master Beekeeper and GBA Treasurer	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 300 Aquatic Cir, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm			Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Life Church, Todd Road and Hwy 41 Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm	April 20	Mason Bees -- Peter Helfrich	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	117 Racetrack Road McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm			henrybeebuz123@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Sparta Hancock Library, 8984 E. Broad St, (Hwy 15 South) Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm			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)*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm			lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension, 206 E. 9th St, Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@littleriverbeekeepers.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	April 20	Varroa Mites – Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, Assistant Professor and Apiculture Specialist at University of Tennessee	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North GA Tech College Campus 338 Epps Mtn Ln, Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm			abletinker@windstream.net	Union, Towns, Fannin
Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers	Habersham County Extension Office 555 Monroe Ave #50 Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	April 8	Introduction to Beekeeping Series, Part One – Mike Dayton (Practical Biology) & Virginia Webb (Basic Equipment to Get Started)	bacidfiori@gmail.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			ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Dr., 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			georgiawildlifeservices@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers Association	Rome-Floyd E.C.O. Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6:00pm	April 1	Package Bees Installation Demo	andi@romelabels.com	Floyd
Southeast GA Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January			Barry Hart	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chehaw Park Creekside Education Cntr, 105 Chehaw Park Rd, Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	April 8	Managing Your Hives During a Nectar Flow – Steve Nofs	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, GA Power Bldg, 752 Main St. Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm			tarabeekeepers@gmail.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 Rd., Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7:00pm	April 12	Study review session for those wanting to take the UGA certified Beekeeper test.	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Banks
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr, Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7:00pm	April 19	In-person meeting and hive inspection – Jo Sanders and Tammy Puryear	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	Lagrange UGA Ext. Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA 30241	3rd Monday, 7pm	April 19	Swarms – Jim Bradfield	troupcountybees@yahoo.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			bjpete7731@att.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 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Georgia Beekeepers Association has taken another big step toward engaging the general public. We have formed a marketing committee to help spread the word about GBA and sell more *Save the Honey Bee* license plates. To that end, we have hired a professional public relations and marketing person, Ms. Shawn O'Neill, who is guiding our committee and our approach. When you see these committee members, please thank them for sharing their time and resources: Katie Goodman, Julia Mahood, Brutz English, Kat Tucker, Dan Long and Derrick Fowler.



Learn how to apply for
License Plate funds to support
your club's educational
initiatives:
See Page 12

Our License Plate Proceeds Committee continues with monthly meetings and generously awarding grants for a wide variety of educational honey bee projects. Thank you Sophia Price, Katie Goodman, Bob Binnie, Marilynn Parker, and Derrick Fowler.

Meanwhile, a subcommittee within our Legislative Committee has been working closely with the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to contribute to the rule and guideline changes concerning bee removals in our state. We thank Brutz English, Karen Palmer, Bill Owens, Bobby Chaisson, Dale Richter, David Louge and Jennifer Berry for their help and strong representation of GBA.

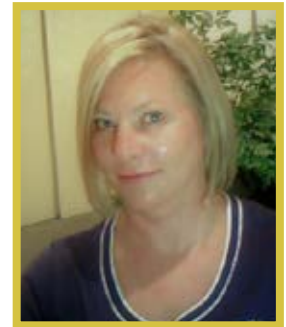
Derrick Fowler, GBA Vice President and Chair of the Conference Committee, has been working to get everything in order in Gainesville GA for our fall conference.

Kathy Bourn and Peter Helfrich are doing great things with our *Spilling the Honey* newsletter. Please send your contributions and ideas to them regularly. Also, did you notice that when you get an email asking for new contributions there is a second link to the last newsletter published? *That is to help you remember to finish reading it!*

Rounding out our communications efforts is Harvest Hoffman, who keeps the GBA website updated as new information comes in. Linda Tillman is managing our GBA Twitter account. Katie Goodman continues to manage our Facebook page and Bobby Theonpohn posts to GBA's Instagram feed. If you, or someone you know, would like to share your expertise, time and talents as a GBA volunteer, please let me know!

We are so excited to have an in-person conference and to see and visit with each other this fall. *Thank you all for being the best part of GBA!* 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Certified Beekeeper Testing Opportunity in June

In June, **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association** will host another **certified beekeeper testing session**, the first in a series of certification tests which make up the UGA Master Beekeeping Program. The test will be administered on Saturday, June 5th at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve Field Research Center just off Roswell Road in Atlanta. Testing will be by appointment starting at 1 p.m. **Registration and more information is available online.** The cost is \$50 and registration closes June 3rd. The text for the exam is *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith

Delaplane. You must have been a beekeeper for at least one year to sit for the test. The previous test date sold out quickly and there is limited availability.

MABA will not host a study group for this test. Prospective test takers are encouraged to attend the Young Harris College/UGA Beekeeping Institute as part of their preparation. **See their website for more information.** Successfully passing the certified test counts towards the testing requirement to allow beekeepers to sit for the journeyman test to be given at the Young Harris College/UGA Beekeeping Institute in 2022. 🍯

REGISTER NOW for Young Harris Beekeeping Institute

2021 marks the 30th year of the Young Harris College / University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute. Each year, the Institute's goal is to bring the best beekeeping educators and scientists in the English-speaking world for the benefit of our attendees. The result is quite simply one of the

best beekeeping educational events in North America. This year's virtual conference will be held May 13 and 14. To register, visit the UGA Honey Bee Program website. 🍯



Beekeeping
Institute

2021

May 13-14
Online



The Virtual Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the latest honey bee research and applied beekeeping techniques.

This year's virtual conference features Professor Robin Crewe, Dr. Kirsten Traynor, and Jerry Hayes plus numerous other talented beekeepers and scientists.



For more information: bees.caes.uga.edu/yhc-uga-beekeeping-institute

The 2021 Honey & Beeswax Show

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25

The GBA Fall Conference will be here before you know it! The annual GBA State Honey and Beeswax Show is traditionally *the* place to show off your finest honey and beeswax. However, this Fall's Honey Show is going to be extra-special! This event will be *our first face-to-face, in-person meeting in over a year-and-a-half!* We have missed all of you terribly during this pandemic, and we want this conference and honey show to be our biggest one ever! WE WANT TO SEE EVERYBODY THERE.

Aside from the renewed comradery, honey show participants will enjoy the thrill of possibly taking home one of the coveted "State Champion" blue ribbons and some serious bragging rights. Also, for those of us needing to buy some new beekeeping equipment, this year's honey show is boasting over \$4,500 in potential prize money. So, go on and get out there into your bee colonies and make some honey and beeswax. We are going to have a great and exciting show this September at the Fall Conference, and we can't wait to see you all there!

***Complete show rules will be published on the GBA website under the "Events" tab.**



Brutz English

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Is there any part of GBA's operation that hasn't been touched or influenced by Brutz English? He has volunteered in so many ways that it is hard to cover it all in one interview.

Brutz is part of a family owning a "centennial family farm," meaning that the farm has been in existence for over 100 years. Brutz represents the fourth generation who is farming the family land. He grew up on the farm and wanted to do something with his life that was agricultural. Having bees was part of that. Brutz has now kept bees for thirteen years and sees himself as a "gentleman farmer."

For him, as for most of us, the most challenging part of beekeeping is keeping the bees alive. They are a big part of his life as he has successfully evolved his honey business, Liberty Hill Honey. "It's great when you have a profitable hobby!" he says. His three daughters, 7, 15 and 17, are not involved with the beekeeping. One of his kids is very

allergic to bees and in general, all three of them see it as "sweatshop labor" but are glad to help with the honey processing.

Although Brutz was a public defender lawyer for about eight years, he found it very stressful. Beekeeping has calmed his life. In addition to managing the farm, he has his finger in a lot of pies, including his own racetrack!

Brutz has volunteered in so many aspects of beekeeping. He wants to be involved in things for GBA that he thinks are impactful. The three volunteer jobs he thinks mattered the most that he has done in GBA so far are his service on the committee that rewrote the bylaws which brought GBA into the modern era; his work with the legislative committee to get the license plate passed and thus bringing a lot of funding to GBA; and his current work on the committee working with the Georgia Department

(continued on next page)



Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge, Brutz English

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

of Agriculture to help rewrite a 70-year old rule that according to Brutz “has plagued the beekeeping community for as long as it has been on the books.” The new practical rule concerns regulations for beekeepers doing cut-outs (structural bee removals). The development of these new standards will benefit beekeepers throughout the state. Brutz says, “I like being involved with what helps the organization run and what will have long-term effects on beekeeping.”

As a master beekeeper, Brutz gives educational talks across the state. In addition, one of his biggest teaching roles is as Presiding Senior Judge for the Welsh honey judge training program at Young Harris. He directs all of the training for the honey judges. He says the honey judge training helped him “learn how to handle and what to do with what the bees produce.” His position in the honey show world has brought invitations to judge honey shows in northern Ireland and all over Georgia. He feels pride in knowing that we are “teaching people the right system in the right way.”

Brutz has been on the GBA board for ten years. He currently serves as one of the six directors. He founded the Potato Creek bee club and has served as an officer of both that club and Henry county for numerous years. He does lots of public speaking to 4-H clubs, garden clubs and of course, to beekeepers.

Brutz thinks his personal strength is the “gift of gab.” He has a unique skill set: his public speaking, organization and analytical skills. He can sort and organize things quickly and he’s good at arguing, debating, discussing.

When asked what he sees as GBA’s strengths, Brutz said, “We have embraced modern technology in a positive way. GBA seems very open to trying to make the work for volunteers easier. Greatest GBA strength is that we have been blessed for many years with a continuous succession of strong leadership. We have also had a strong board of directors for years now. And GBA is not afraid to think big, such as taking the risk on the license plate project. We are a proactive and assertive organization.”

As for where GBA needs to grow, Brutz said, “GBA needs to reach out to more of the beekeepers in the state. There are a lot of beekeepers that are not GBA members. It’s a particular challenge to reach out to commercial and southern beekeepers. The politics of the times make it hard for people to stop and listen to each other, finding distance

instead of commonality. The effort has been there for GBA, but we haven’t found the answer yet.”

Brutz is motivated to volunteer because “I always want things to be the best they can and more than they are. I see the potential in everything and everyone. I want things to be as much fun and fulfilling as they can. When I see a way to make something better, I can’t help myself.”

It’s no wonder that Brutz was named GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2017 and that he is well-loved by so many beekeepers all over the state. Thank you, Brutz, for all you give to GBA. 🐝



Above: Katie Goodman (left) and Brutz English at the Georgia legislature, working on passage of the GBA honey bee license plate.

THE JOURNEY FROM PACKAGES TO BETTER COLONY MANAGEMENT

– PART 2 –

by **Bob Grant**, *Turning Creek Artisans*

In part one of this series (see April issue, page 8), we made the transition from purchasing early spring package bees to producing my own, resulting in 30 colonies available for the sourwood flow. Since an individual queen has a finite number of sperm to work with and these are very large hives, she must use a significant portion of sperm over a much shorter period.

As of early spring 2021, we have 19 remaining hives. Sixteen are strong hives with a lot of activity. The goal this year is to make up for colony losses and collect honey from both flows. To implement the plan for this year's honey production, we will take eight of the strongest colonies and add either a third hive body or two four-frame nuc bodies with undrawn foundation.

Two of the eight "super hives" have double four-frame nucs, while the remaining ones have the standard 10-frame hive bodies. The four-frame nuc bodies fit on a standard 10-frame hive body with no adjustments, in essence creating two nucs of worker bees less the queens.

We watched the bees for several weeks through mid-April to see if and when they built out the comb and when the queen started laying. We use only Carniolan bees whose spring build-up characteristics are different from Italian bees. Carniolan populations tend to explode to fill the hive so we watch them more closely to determine when this explosion will occur. Then, we will move the extra hive body (or double four-frame

nuc bodies) from the super hive and create two new hives. Second, but equally important, is to ensure that new queens are available to finish the splitting process.

We then go through the super hive to find the existing queen and move her to one of the splits to minimize the swarming potential of a second-year queen. We take the frame she is on and move her, including the brood, bees, and food. We then mark the new hive so that we now know where this proven-year-old queen is. Finally, we introduce new queens into all the queenless hives.

For the most part, we buy our queens from a reputable supplier with a proven track record for producing our desired queen stock. We could raise our own, but given the period from queen development to the build-up to honey production, purchasing proven queens is the best option. One exception is to find queen cells, but few cells exist at this time of year.

We also look for queen cells in the remaining hives to see which hives may be ready to swarm. If there are more than three queen cells, we will move the extras to other hives or our queen castle to allow for normal queen replacement. (A queen castle allows the storage of queens and provides a place to develop their early colonies.) Concurrently, we will move the old queens to start-up nucs. For the new beekeeper, remember to distinguish between swarm and supersedure queen cells. Use the swarm cells!

Next month, I'll cover the results and the next steps. 🐝

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

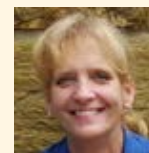
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Water Your Bees NOW!

by Kelley Campbell

“**T**here’s a pond / stream / lake nearby... I don’t need to water them.”

Yeah, I said that, too... My yard is always shaded, it stays wet and breeds mosquitoes better than the Everglades. I have a swamp at the bottom of the property 10 months out of the year, AND a pond 400 yards from the hives. However, I had a month’s long battle with my bees going to the wrong place for water. Thankfully, my neighbors appreciated the bees enough to kindly let me know their pool was being overrun with them, rather than spray them all, or harass me daily about them. And rather than ignorantly say, “ain’t my bees,” “not my problem,” or “prove they are my bees,” I felt obligated to do all I could to correct the issue, and allow my neighbors to fully enjoy their hard-earned property. It was literally a daily endeavor to get those bees off the pool, without moving them. I created over 30 different styles of water sources between the pool and the hives, and *every morning* I woke up early to spray bee-gone stuff at the pool where they were. I hoped for days and days of rain just to give me a break from this chore. Even with all that, the bees still came back, every day. There were fewer of them, but still enough to keep the neighbors uncomfortable and indoors.

But then, it happened! The following spring, the “pool neighbors” flagged me down to apologize to me for causing me to get rid of the bees. They are avid gardeners and never intended for the bees to go away... they wanted the bees around, just not in their pool. But I hadn’t moved my bees, or given up the hobby! I had just done a billion things to try to deter them, and had lots of luck! And the winter, with more dormant time, really helped me out, too. Save yourself that drama, and

unnecessary tension with the neighbors, and **WATER YOUR BEES now!**

Bees need water to maintain a certain humidity in the brood nest, to cool the hive, to store honey and nectar, among other tasks. They don’t store it, so they need to collect it all the time! At the spring 2018 GBA conference, I learned it takes 53 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of honey. That’s a large bathtub, y’all! Be sure you have a reliable water source or multiple sources for your bees.

For now, the cool nights and morning dew during the nectar flow tend to give bees the moisture they need. However, every summer we have a drought. Currently, we are an inch below our average rainfall. So, I expect more “water trouble” as the summer comes. Bees **WILL** find neighbor’s bird baths and pools....*prevent this!* It’s nearly impossible to correct, once they get started.

Set out some shallow dishes (they can’t swim!) for them so that they find it now and continue to visit throughout the warmer months. Birdbaths with pebbles or sticks work, flowing water over rocks is a favorite, or even a watering dish commonly used for domestic animals will work. I have multiple sources for them year-round. My overall goal is to prevent them from even looking for water, so I have boardman feeders full of saline water (from the pool) on *every hive* from February to November and they never go dry. When I leave town, a few nearby beek friends stop by every third day to top them off. (Yes, it’s that important.) Just in case the bees find themselves looking for something different, I also have at least two hanging bird waterers (spring - fall) with “fresh” water, and a kiddie pool of rainwater (year-round) with pool noodles and wine corks for landing boards and natural yard debris. 🍷





CROWNED WITH A QUEEN



by *Ryun Forsman, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association*

On April 1st, the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association held their first in-person meeting in more than a year. The speaker's talk was on swarm catching. The author of this story is a LHBA member and offers the following as the reason for his absence from the meeting...

I'm sorry that I missed the meeting on Thursday. I was planning on being there, but there's a good reason I couldn't. I gave a coworker, Julie, some bees last fall, and she and her boyfriend have been really excited to get into beekeeping. They got the bees through the winter, and the colony is growing rapidly. They were also thinking about coming out to the meeting, but they texted me at about 6:00pm with the photo shown here.

It was a small swarm that found a fallen tree branch with a shallow hole in it, about 10 feet from their hive. Knowing how cold it was going to be overnight on Thursday, I hurried to their place to help them collect the swarm.

When I arrived, they had set up a box, and we got prepped to capture them. They had been looking to see if they could locate the queen with no luck. I picked up the branch and gave it a good sharp shake close to the box, and about 3/4 of the bees fell in the box. We all hunched over the box and tried to locate the queen to no avail. So we laid the branch up by the entrance to wait for the march or see if the bees would come back out of the box. After at least ten minutes, we saw no action in either direction. The bees still on the branch stayed there, and the bees in the box just checked out the frames. So we took a step back to give them more time.

About five minutes later, Julie, who was listening to me talk suddenly exclaimed, "*The queen is on your veil!!*" Her boyfriend said she was crazy; it was just a few random bees. She came in closer for a look and said she was positive. Thankfully, she had a queen clip nearby. She ran over to get it, came up to my veil, and with the assistance of her boyfriend, scooped up the queen. As she pulled it down to show me for confirmation, I did see the queen, but the clip wasn't fully closed. Just as I tried to tell her to close it, the queen took off! She flew right past her boyfriend's face and out of sheer reaction, he tried to grab her out of the sky (fortunately, he missed!). The sun was just low enough to create a glow around the yard. I kept my eyes on her as she flew and watched her take a long arching swoop around the hive. Then I lost sight because she flew around behind Julie and I totally lost track. Then she said, "She landed back on your veil!" This time, she scooped her up, secured the clip and we had her! It was crazy, but exhilarating. That queen was like an airplane in a holding

pattern, waiting to land. She flew a perfect large circle right back to me.

Julie put the clip down in the box and within seconds, our queen was greeted by bees. About 10 minutes later, every bee was in the box.

I'm still trying to figure out how Julie spotted the queen, when she was standing six to eight feet away from me. I'm guessing the queen got on my veil while I was bent over and shaking the bees into the box. She must have flown up and taken refuge on my hat.

I thought it was pretty ironic that I missed the meeting discussing swarm catching, at the exact time I was busy helping catch a swarm. I will be there next month though, *assuming another swarm doesn't attempt to interrupt!* 🐝





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: The Swivel Swarm Snatcher

by *Julia Mahood*

Lots of swarms are lost because they are too high to reach. This year, I set my sights on cobbling together a pole catcher that would keep me off of ladders, but still allow me to get those precious swarms.

The first one I made from a water cooler bottle. It's great because it has a handle, but there's a *big* downside – when you lower it, you risk pouring the bees out on the ground. I've used it with success, but have had to be mindful of gently bringing it down and having a container there to pour the bees into.

So on to a new design! I wanted a container that would swivel so that the bees wouldn't pour out. I started with a fabric bin that is made to hold dog toys (hey, it was a cheap find from Marshalls and the bees don't care what's written on the side) and the rest is just an exercise in PVC pipe engineering.

The measurements need to be based on your container, but here are the basics:

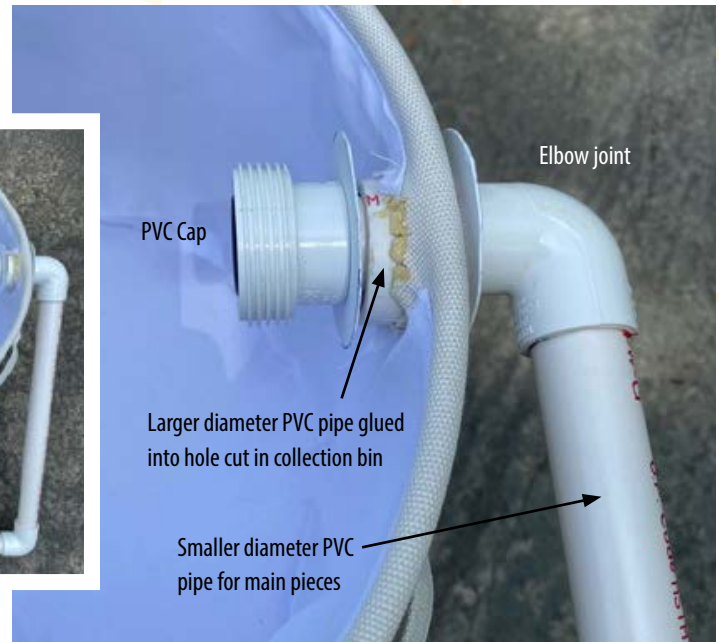
MATERIALS

- Lightweight fabric bin
- Long piece of PVC pipe to cut into components
- Two 3" or so pieces of PVC just large enough for the main pieces to fit into with room to move
- 1 PVC "T" junction, threaded to hold a telescoping pole
- 4 elbow joints
- 2 PVC caps for inside the bin
- 4 plastic discs to keep the pipes from slipping out of the holes in the bin (I cut them out of an old plastic storage bin lid that had lost its container.)
- Glue
- PVC cement

Cut holes on either side of the bin that will snugly accommodate the wider piece of pipe, then glue the pipe to the fabric.

Construct the rest based on the photo making sure to leave room at the bottom for the bin to be able to freely swivel when raising and lowering the bin.

Be sure to dry fit everything before you use the PVC cement to finish it up! 🐝



Bee-ing Swarm Savvy

by *Kathy Bourn*

You try reversing the boxes, you try checkerboarding your hives, you try making splits, you even try begging and pleading with your bees to stay... but eventually your honey bees will swarm. You try to not take it personally, but it still hurts. One way to reduce the pain is to gear up for catching swarms. If they're swarms from your colonies, it's great. If they're another beekeeper's swarms or feral bees, that's even better.

Start by having a plan:

- **Have your swarm catching equipment together and ready to go.** Swarms are not going to hang around forever waiting for you to get your act together.
- **Know the basics of how to catch bees in a cluster along with why and how honey bees swarm.** The bees have a plan too and you're trying to outwit them.
- **Know what you're going to do with the bees once you have them.** This includes where you're going to put them once you have them and how you'll transport them.
- **Know what risks you're willing to take trying to catch a bunch of homeless honey bees.** The cost

of those "free bees" gets pretty high when you add in the medical bills.

Now, I am by no means a champion swarm catcher. I don't live near my bees, so it's rare that I spot a cluster in my own bee yard. But I do get folks calling about swarms that they see. From March to maybe mid-summer, I carry my swarm catching equipment in my truck. Basically, this is a toolbox with the beekeeping essentials, my jacket, gloves and veil, and a lightweight catch box. I also have a special transport box that locks together and has plenty of ventilation. Your essentials may vary.

My truck, with my swarm catching boxes inside, sits in a high parking lot all week. I know this will probably never happen, but I thought I might as well drop the tailgate, put some swarm lure in the boxes and see what happens. You never know when a stray scout bee will come by and advertise this great location to a swarm.

The best advice when it comes to swarm catching is... *don't kill yourself*. If a swarm is down low... great! If a swarm is ladder height on level ground or within reach of a pole catcher, that's good, too. If a swarm is 40 feet up in a tree and you don't have a bucket truck... then wave goodbye and wish them well. 🍷



Above: Kathy keeps her swarm catching gear in her truck from March to mid-summer. With the tailgate down, a little swarm lure and a lot of luck, Kathy hopes maybe a swarm will move in all on their own one day!

Annual Beekeeping Short Course at UGA (1972 through the 1980s)

by *Mickey Anderson*

Dr. Alfred Dietz started the Annual Beekeeping Short Course at the University of Georgia in 1972. The courses lasted one day and were on the first or second Saturday in June. There was a morning session with presentations at the UGA campus, and an afternoon session with four or five concurrent hands-on demonstrations at the UGA Bee Yard about seven miles from the UGA campus. Hilda Spratlin, Secretary for the UGA Entomology Department, helped Dr. Dietz with the paperwork and organization of these short courses for many years. About 100-200 people attended each year. I participated in practically every one until 1985.

Many GBA members also helped Dr. Dietz. Some were Phil and Fred Rossman, Frank Robinson (Univ of Florida), Reg Wilbanks, Louise Passmore (Dadant-Hahira, now closed), Troy Fore (Speedy Bee) and Malcolm T. Sanford to name a few (my apologies to the many hardworking individuals that I did not mention). The late Walter T. Kelley and his wife came to one of these short courses.

The morning presentations, lasting 15-30 minutes, were given by scientists, commercial beekeepers, equipment manufacturers, Dr. Dietz's students and others. My morning and afternoon presentations were titled "Hive Manipulations." In the morning, I showed slides of many different things from the colony and went into some details about bees, queens, drones, brood, wax combs, honey, pollen, etc. In the afternoon hands-on session, I opened up a colony, removed frames, and did a hive inspection, showed them what I discussed in my morning presentation, and answered the many questions. There were about five stations in the afternoon sessions which lasted about 20 minutes each. Participants were assigned to different groups and were rotated to the different stations. The afternoon presenters did the same presentation to five different groups of participants. I had five colonies of bees and used a different colony for each group. The other afternoon sessions given by other presenters were honey extraction, queen grafting, hive parts, and research projects. I moved from Georgia to Maryland in 1978, but returned most years to help.

One year, I was surprised to see Louis Knight and his son as participants at the short course. Louis was a retired minister from Cross Keys Baptist Church in Macon, GA and I was a

former member of this church who had listened to hundreds of his sermons. *This was the first time he listened to any presentation from me!* I was honored and pleased when he approached me afterwards and said he enjoyed coming, learned a lot, was pleased to see me, but he never realized that I knew anything about bees.

There were hundreds of beekeepers through the years who attended Dr. Dietz's Annual Short Courses. I was proud to be a small part of this very worthwhile endeavor. I last saw Dr. Dietz in January 2019, when his daughter was married in the chapel at the Botanical Gardens in Athens, GA. He drove up from his home in Florida. I received a Christmas card from him this year and he commented that the honey supers seem to be getting heavier. Dr. Dietz will celebrate his 92th trip around the sun in April 2021. 🍯

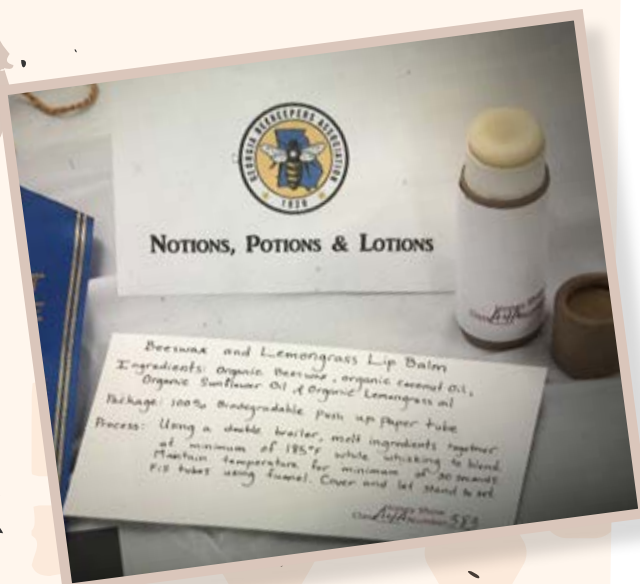


Top: Agronomy Farm Bee Yard, June 1973. The author is kneeling down (in middle, back to camera, with helmet/bee veil on). Bottom: Participants are arriving for the afternoon, hands-on session, June 1982.



ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.



BEE-YOU-TIFUL LIPS

By the Women Beekeepers of Lee Arrendale State Prison

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 C. beeswax
- 1/4 C. cocoa butter
- 1/4 C. coconut oil
- 1/8 C. Jojoba oil
- 1/8 C. Avocado oil

- 1/4 C. Apricot oil
- 1 T. Vitamin E oil
- 1/2 t. Bittersweet chocolate
- 1/8 t. Peppermint essential oil
- 1 t. Honey

PREPARATION

Melt the first eight ingredients in a double boiler. Remove from heat. Add honey and peppermint. Stir until opaque to emulsify. Return to heat until melted. Pour into lip balm tubes. Let cool.



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.](#) 

Post-it for Local Club Presidents

Useful links for local club presidents

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, [CLICK HERE](#). (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in person and others on Zoom, [email Jonathan Hayes](#).
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, [CLICK HERE](#).

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Beekeepers of Gilmer County's April 12th meeting was in two parts. At the apiary, two club members, **Steve Towe** and **Robert Gifford**, did a hands on presentation showing a walk away split (photo at left, top). Several new beekeepers were present and got to help with the split. Also, **Glen Henderson** demonstrated one way to install a package. The meeting then moved to a reserved pavilion at our local park. The 20 beekeepers present heard Glen continue to answer questions on the package installation, swarming, and how to prevent swarming (photo at left, bottom).

The Beekeepers of Gilmer meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the Club Apiary on Simmons Road (weather permitting) and then at 6:30 at the pavilion at the park. All are invited to attend. At this time of COVID-19, we are having all outside meetings with social distancing. For more info email lvautrot@yahoo.com or message at 706.897.2859 📞

Chattooga County Beekeepers

Chattooga County Beekeepers attended Earth Day at Menlo School where around 400 students and teachers came by to learn about swarms and honey. Almost every student asked a question, some wanted to attend beekeeping meetings. Teachers learned about the availability of the honey bee license plate in Georgia. 📞



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, April 20th at the Life Church student center. Thirty-nine members attended in person and the meeting was also available via Zoom. The program, *Mason Bees and Other Native Bees*, was presented by **Peter Helfrich**, Journeyman Beekeeper and chairperson of City of Decatur's Bee City USA committee. His informative program compared and contrasted mason bees with honey bees. Heart of Georgia partnered with Stan's Pure Honey from Broxton, GA in selling nucs this year. **Jonathan Day** donated a nuc to Heart of Georgia which was raffled off at the meeting. **Crystal Payne**, pictured at left with club president **Anita Curry**, was the winner. Crystal is new to beekeeping this year and was so excited to win the nuc. She now has three hives! Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 at Life Church, Hwy 41 and Todd Road in Perry. Our program, *Liability and Medical Concerns of Beekeeping*, will be presented by attorney **Ryan English** and registered nurse, **Steven Heath**. Be sure to check out our website, HOGAB.org for more information. 📞

SOWEGA Beekeepers

SOWEGA Beekeepers Spring 2021 Bee Labs will be held May 16th, 2-4 p.m., at the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club Educational Apiary at Chehaw Park in Albany, GA. Attendance is limited to a small number of students. Bring your bee suit and gloves to the Bee Lab (we are limited in the number of loaner bee suits we have). Our sponsors do sell bee suits and equipment. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver when you attend Bee Labs. **To register, click here.** 📞



Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Oak Park Community House 106 NW Railroad Ave., Oak Park, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm	In Person			beecolson@gmail.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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	Hybrid - Zoom link e-mailed to paid members	May 11	Bobby Thanepohn on Harvesting Honey. Bobby will be at the impressive Etowah Meadery facility in Dahlonega. Join us there, or via Zoom.	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm		May 11	Bees. Bees. Bees.	beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm		May 20	Nosema (Zoom) – Don Coats, DVM	weeksworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 7:00 pm	In Person	May 3	Smoker lighting demonstration. Cook-out and fellowship.	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	Virtual - Zoom	May 10	Tom Rearick, a Master Beekeeper and researcher; From the GBA Video Library "How the Honey Bee Finds Her Way Home"	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
East Metro Beekeepers	1400 Parker Rd SE Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm	In person	May 25	A visit to David Shipp's bee yard	eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	1st Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble	Virtual - Google Meet			spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Virtual - Zoom link e-mailed to paid members	May 27	David McLeod will discuss the ever evolving Varroa management	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Life Church Student Center Hwy 41 and Todd Road, Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm		May 18	RN and Lawyer; Apiary Safety and Liability	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm		May 6	Shairon and Randal Kerlin: "How To Put Pennies In Your Honey-pot." Making candles and other products from the hive	lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	Virtual - Register for Zoom link prior to meeting; link will be emailed to you.	May 18	Kim Flottum: "Using Nucs – A Bee Store in Your Backyard" (Mentoring Topic: Harvesting Honey)	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm		May 4		abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	USUALLY the 2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	In Person	Saturday, May 15, 9:00am	introduction to Beekeeping Series Part II - featuring hands-on demonstrations Sign Up Here	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbcbclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm	In Person and FaceBook Live			monicashp@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	In person	May 13	Broadus Williams: Raising Queens and Basic Beekeeping Q&A Zoom Link	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm	In person			threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm	in person	May 17	Members will share swarm traps and experiences	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm		May 24	Knowlegable members will share what the local beekeeper should be experiencing in the upcoming months.	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.

A REMEMBRANCE

THE SPRING HONEY FLOW

by *Lorraine Kaliher*

My wonderful, sweet, humorous mentor, the late Pete Rountree, gave me much wisdom about the nectar flow and when it starts. Each spring, I remember asking Pete every few days, “Has the flow started yet?” He would say that an elderly and wise man had told him that when you see the first sign of wild honeysuckle blooming, then the flow is beginning. When the honeysuckle blooms, the spring flow starts, wherever you may live, even in the north. Pete and I decided that honeysuckle probably does grow everywhere, but would come out at different times depending on the weather.

Armed with that knowledge, each year my new plan was to try to beat Pete at his yearly announcement that the flow had started as soon as I had spied my first honeysuckle blooms.

In Georgia, we have lots of winter blooms for the bees, but I have been watching closely for the beginning of the spring flow. Buds were setting and I spied the first honeysuckle blooms on April 15th. I wanted to share this with all of you in honor and remembrance of my sweet friend and mentor: Pete Rountree. 🍯

The flow
is ON!



Spilling *The* Honey

JUNE 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What's new at the Georgia Beekeepers Association?

To lead our group toward more public outreach and sales of the GBA Save the Honey Bee license plate, we have formed a new marketing committee. We voted to spend some of our license plate proceeds on a proper ad campaign to sell more plates and chose to work with Shawn O'Neill, owner of **Soffritto PR**. Shawn is a public relations professional and has a wide background working with all types of media and she has experience working for nonprofits like GBA. She is also a second-year beekeeper who just passed her certified beekeeper test. With her expertise and guidance, the committee chose to do a three-part campaign which includes statewide radio ads with Georgia Public Broadcasting, digital outdoor ads in the Midtown and Piedmont Park areas of Atlanta, and outreach through email and social media to Atlanta-area farmers market patrons. These outlets were chosen based on prior Save the Honey Bee plate sales, overall population and targeted groups which care about local high-quality foods, the environment and other reasons to love bees. GBA is testing the markets and we hope to add many more Save The Honey Bee license plates to the roads. This PR program is rolling out within a few weeks. Please look and listen for the ads. GBA members will receive a Survey Monkey survey once the ads are in full swing asking if you saw or heard any of them. Thank you to our marketing committee members who are Derrick Fowler, Katie Goodman, Kat Tucker, Julia Mahood, Brutz English, Dan Long and Shawn O'Neill.

Meanwhile, GBA's License Plate Proceed committee continues to be judicious in reviewing and debating the grant requests for our proceeds from the Save the Honey Bee plate. We are especially excited about sensible requests that showcase honey bees to the public, start new programs and expand the reach of overall GBA education. There has been a wide variety of projects awarded funding which includes:

- UGA Bee Lab
- Sustainable bee forage
- Beekeeping equipment and bees for children and teen programs
- Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) Sentinel program for a group of local clubs
- Z-kits and electronic components to assist in holding Zoom meetings during the pandemic
- State prison bee equipment and educational DVDs
- New beekeeping program at the Veterinary College at UGA

The committee members pride themselves on being prudent and assuring that this funding goes out for the greatest impact and to the most people. Thank you to our license plate committee members Sophia Price, Bob Binnie, Katie Goodman, Marilynn Parker, and Derrick Fowler.

GBA's Fall Conference is September 23-25 in Gainesville, GA and will include a business meeting where we will share with our members the financial picture of our association and the specifics of the license plate proceeds. This first in-person conference since the pandemic will feature Dr. Tom Seeley, Dr. Victoria Soroker, Dr. Geoff Williams, Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, and Dr. Jim Tew. We are having lectures and testing for Journeyman Beekeeper, Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judging on September 23rd on behalf of the Young Harris College/ University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute. 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Be a Part of Prison Beekeeping

Volunteers are needed for a new prison beekeeping program

by **Julia Mahood**, Georgia Master Beekeeper and GBA Prison Program Committee Chair

The Jackson County Correctional Institution is a small facility just north of Athens, GA that will start a beekeeping program in 2022. Having volunteer instructors is key to a successful prison beekeeping program, and we are looking for an individual, or ideally a few folks, to take on this program.

This facility has inmates in their last years of incarceration who all work outside the prison during the day (they'll stay in on beekeeping class days) and are preparing for life after prison. It's small, and the administration is extremely supportive of getting a beekeeping program started. Additionally they have an inmate who got his certified designation while at Dooley Prison, so you'll have a student teacher!

What's involved?

GBA has lots of resources for creating a program so you won't be starting from scratch! Your time commitment would be weekly during the spring and summer months, but having a few folks to share the job with will give you more flexibility. That said, you are volunteering and it's fine to miss some classes for vacations, and you can also line up guest speakers if you're away. (Speaking to a prison class is a public service credit towards Journeyman and Master, and lots of people will help out here and there.) We've tried programs with just a monthly volunteer visit, but it just falls apart without someone at the helm more

regularly.

Most programs start classroom learning (using Keith Delaplane's *First Lessons in Beekeeping* as a text) sometime in January-February while putting equipment together and getting the apiary set up. When the bees arrive, classroom focus goes outside to the apiary. Then, in later summer months when there are fewer hive-site tasks, study ramps up for the certified test which happens in the fall. Prison programs can compete against each other at the GBA honey shows, so learning about and preparing for those is part of classroom time later in the season.

Ideally, volunteers will have several years of experience. It's great to be certified, but if not, you can take the test along with your students!

Why teach beekeeping in a prison?

Incarcerated individuals who get to take beekeeping are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn and to connect with nature. In prison folks don't have YouTube or cell phones or any of the other distractions that we are used to. Teaching what you love is easy, and they devour the information. Watching folks get excited about beekeeping is contagious and really fun to be a part of. Additionally you'll grow your beekeeping knowledge through teaching. It's really the most rewarding volunteer work you can do! 🐝

For more information:

Feel free to reach out to Julia Mahood, juliamahood@gmail.com or 678-448-2576 with any questions you have or to express interest in volunteering. Charlie Scott (charlie4176@yahoo.com, 404-226-7125) is in his first year of teaching at the Hall County Correctional Institution and would also be happy to answer your questions from the perspective of a new volunteer.



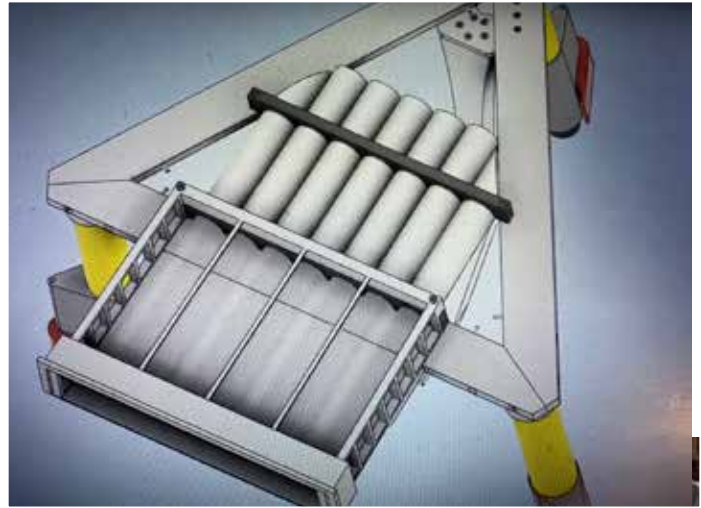
Monitoring Bee Activity

by *Dr. Jörg Mayer, UGA College of Veterinary Medicine*

Because the GBA has been a strong supporter of the bee colonies at the University of Georgia veterinary college, I wanted to let you know about a project I was involved in along with UGA engineering students Jake Alford, William Becker, Justin Jacobs, Madeleine Schwab and Jessica Yeagle. In just one semester, the students were able to build and perfect a bee activity monitor. The goal was to develop a non-invasive mechanism capable of recording a video feed of bee movement in and out of the hive. The resulting data can be used to help assess colony health. The students used a small raspberry pi computer to control their camera. Collected data was analyzed through a neural network to count honey bees as they passed through the imaging field.

I mentored these students for the Capstone Project and they won first prize in the Community Impact category of the UGA College of Engineering Senior Design

competition. You can see more details of their hive activity monitor in the **video clip from this site**. I am very impressed with what they came up with in the end. Their product is amazing in my opinion. The future looks bright for these future engineers! 🍯



Mayer

Georgia Bee Power

by **Kevin McCraney**, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association and GBA member

I work for Georgia Power in the Lake Hartwell area and was recently contacted about a honey bee colony living in a cavity in a wood power pole. The opening was created by a woodpecker and a honey bee colony moved in. Because of the damage, the pole needed to be replaced. This presented a unique challenge since the bees were located 60 feet off the ground.

I'm also a certified drone (UAV) pilot with Georgia Power. I used thermal imagery captured from a drone to determine the size and position of the nest. Once the pole change-out was scheduled, the bees were "screened in" early in the morning before they began flying to protect the line crew. Having a bucket truck really came in handy for that part of the job. The crew then cut out a section of the pole leaving plenty of room around the colony. The pole section was then supported vertically by a temporary frame to keep it upright and relocated for later transfer into a hive body.

There's not enough room for the colony of bees to stay in the pole. In fact, I believe they swarmed about two days after I brought them home. Their numbers were greatly reduced and now they don't beard on the outside of the pole as much as before. I'm going to leave them alone for a couple of weeks in case they are requeening. Then, I'm going to try an experiment. I'm going to place a hive body with foundation on top with a hole bored down to the colony and see if they will move up. 🐝



The author, 60 feet up, with the screened section of power pole containing the honey bee colony.



Above: The removed section of power pole is supported by wood framing. Thermal imagery helped determine the exact location of the colony.

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

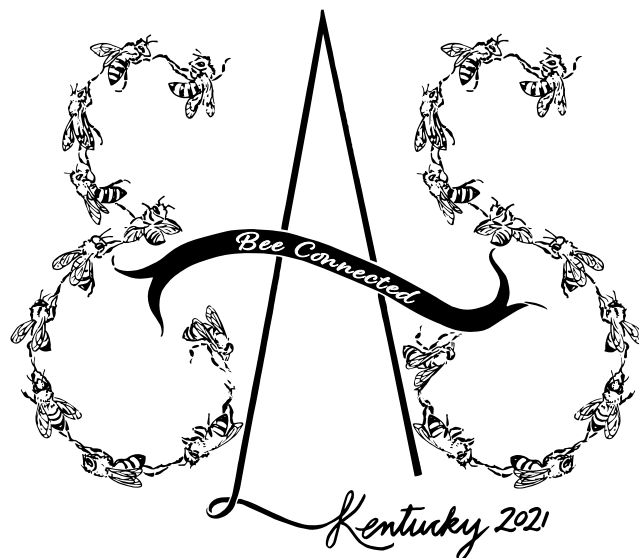


Peter Helfrich

– Your Editors
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Bee Connected EAS 2021

August 11-13, 2021
Shepherdsville, KY



by **Lou (Eloise) Naylor**, EAS Chairman of Board

The annual Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) conference will look a bit different this year, but with the same high level of educational expertise and fun as in previous years. Our usual five day conference will be condensed to three days. There will be Master Beekeeping Testing, hands-on outdoor apiary learning and presentations by interesting speakers scheduled for each day. The social events include an outdoor barbecue, awards, and auction on the evening of Friday, August 13th. At this time, there will not be a honey show.

Shepherdsville, KY is approximately 20 minutes from the two main airports in Louisville, KY. There are many activities, restaurants and hotels in the area. Paroquet Springs Conference Center can accommodate 1000 participants, but we are limiting the event to 300 participants in order to maintain social distance in the main presentation hall.

Registration is now open to all current EAS members. Since we are limiting attendance to 300, there will be no walk-in registrations for the event. Masks indoors will be mandatory. If at all possible please get a vaccine before coming. We want to hold a safe, educational, fun event.

The attached flyer has more information, and you can register at the following link: **EAS 2021 Conference Registration**. Please note that you will need to log in as an EAS member in order to register. *Stay well and we'll see you in Kentucky!* 🐝

\$300 registration fee for the 3-day conference

Outdoor BBQ with live music by Mary's Dad 's Band on Friday, August 13th is included with registration!

REGISTER NOW FOR EAS 2021 CONFERENCE - SPACES ARE FILLING UP QUICKLY!

Following the current state Covid-19 guidelines on masking and social distancing, this venue will allow us to register 300 attendees, so register today to secure your spot!

Register here:

<https://easternapiculturesociety.wildapricot.org/event-4219155>

PRESENTATION SPEAKERS

C. Bee	John Benham
Deborah Delaney	Jamie Ellis
Erin McGregor Forbes	Kevin Inglin
Cameron Jack	Tammy Horn Potter
Juliana Rangel	Kent Williams
Jon Zawislak	

APIARY EXPERIENCE

Organized by Jennifer Keller and Don Hopkins

Topics addressed in the apiary include:

Hive Inspection

Varroa mites testing

Brood diseases

Queen identification & requeening

How-to's:

Making splits

Test sampling for *Tropilaelap*

Testing for hygienic qualities

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

GBA Beekeeper of the Year 2021

by *Linda Tillman*, Chair, Beekeeper of the Year Committee

It's time to nominate outstanding members of our beekeeping community for GBA's Beekeeper of the Year 2021. The GBA Beekeeper of the Year is a GBA member who has not only demonstrated and promoted good beekeeping, but who is also an outstanding volunteer. Traditionally, past Beekeepers of the Year are not awarded the honor again. **Past recipients are listed on the GBA website.**

Our bylaws include these guidelines for the characteristics of the Beekeeper of the Year:

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 nominated beekeepers will be evaluated based on what is written about them on the nominating forms. It's not a matter of how many nominations come in for that person, but of the qualities of that person as described by those who submit the forms. So it's important to do your best to tell the committee why you think this person deserves the award. Both the person filling out the form and the person being nominated

have to be current GBA members.

This year's committee is composed of members from different quadrants of the state:

- Linda Tillman, Chair
- Mickey Anderson
- Emily Heath
- Stephanie Scott
- Ben Williams

The committee will first ensure that all nominations are eligible. Then after July 15, when nominations close, based on what is written about the nominees, they will select three people as finalists. The GBA board of directors will then vote by secret ballot to select the Beekeeper of the Year.

We encourage you to honor your members by nominating them. All nominated beekeepers will be informed that they were nominated, so even if not selected for the award, it's a nice way to honor those you respect and admire. The committee is looking forward to learning about outstanding members of our community from across the state. 🐝

Nominated beekeepers will be evaluated based on what is written about them on the nominating forms. It's not a matter of how many nominations come in for that person, but of the qualities of that person as described by those who submit the forms.

To nominate someone, fill out this form by clicking here.

Another Certified Testing Opportunity

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association has been authorized to locally host another Certified Test for the UGA Master Beekeeping Program! The test date is Saturday, June 5th at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve's Field Research Center just off Roswell Road in Atlanta. Testing will be by appointment starting at 1 pm. The previous test date sold out quickly and there is limited availability. **Registration and more information is available online.** The cost is \$50

and registration closes June 3rd. The text for the exam is *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith Delaplane. You must have been a beekeeper for at least one year to sit for the test.

Successfully passing the certified test counts towards the testing requirement to allow beekeepers to sit for the journeyman test to be given at the Young Harris College/UGA Beekeeping Institute in 2022. 🐝

Honey Bee Resources

by **Thom Carey**, owner/operator, T&S Bee Farm

Following the closure of the Little River Beekeepers Club, we recognized the need for an educational group to fill the void in our area. I am the head organizer of Honey Bee Resources and the owner-operator of T&S Bee Farm in Mitchell County, Georgia. We receive frequent requests from schools and organizations for programs on bees and beekeeping. As a result, we have developed a standardized program that we can tailor to meet the requests of our participants. In the four years before COVID-19, our presenters have done yearly programs for the Lee County school system. We have also done several presentations in Worth, Mitchell, and Baker Counties for public and private groups. We have done programs for Dare to Dream Young Girls, Inc. in Tallahassee, Florida too.

We are working on making our website a viable source of educational material on bees and beekeeping. We are close to completing the first three of the proposed lesson plans for teachers to download and use for class instruction. As we continue to do research and learn, we will add more content to the site.

We are not a club. We do not have members. We have a loosely organized group of dedicated beekeepers who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Our participating presenters change according to their areas of interest and the instruction needed.

We have done two events this year so far. We got together and conducted a spring bee school in February, and in April gave hands-on instruction in the bee yard on conducting a proper hive inspection.

We are contemplating the frequency of our events. We are considering the idea of having a monthly event of some kind. We are looking at topics and programs based on the needs of our participants. We are considering bringing in guest experts for presentations at some point. 🐝



THE JOURNEY FROM PACKAGES TO BETTER COLONY MANAGEMENT

– PART 3: STUFF HAPPENS –

Note: This is the third in a series of articles that could be useful to beginners and those struggling to keep their bees alive.

In part 2 of this series of articles, I discussed the evaluation of my hives coming out of winter. Several of the strongest are now “super hives,” used to build up the bees and brood for splitting purposes. In April, we continued regular inspections and supplemental feeding of fortified sugar syrup and supplemental pollen substitute as necessary. Feeding was stopped during the third week in April in preparation for the wildflower flow.

If beneficial nectar plants and pollen are available, the bees will go for those first over the substitutes beekeepers offer. During the third week in March, the bees were still finding many food sources. In the last week of March, I decided to feed the super hives selectively to accelerate comb build-out. Three of my apiaries were taking the sugar syrup; one was not.

During the spring build-up, we alter our sugar ratio in the syrup. So I used one and a half times the normal sugar used through mid-April. Our normal feeding regimen is usually ended one to two weeks in advance of the flow. As is commonly known, when the supers go on, the artificial feeding stops!

Part of our routine is to visit the community feeders to check how much syrup the bees are consuming and see what type of wasps and hornets are showing up for a free meal. Interestingly, I have noticed the paper wasps at the feeders in the early AM, before noon, and in the early evening. But in late April and early May, we didn't see any wasps or hornets other than yellowjackets. Every two weeks, we add a new attractant to our wasp traps.

We wait three days between feeding cycles. In late April, we inspected the hives to check on comb build-out and brood development. If the comb was not ready, we added internal feeders to encourage development. We also broke a lot of drone brood between the frames and noticed no mites present (nor did we see any tell-tale evidence of mites in the colonies, like the deformed wing virus).

Of course, every journey has a few bumps in the road, too. In the third week of April, we had a late freeze which damaged a lot of spring buds, including early blueberries, tulip



by **Bob Grant**,
*Turning Creek
Artisans*

poplar, and others at the 2,000 foot elevation. Compounding that problem, our usual queen supplier couldn't produce mated queens due to wind conditions in northern California. Thus, we couldn't do the super hive splits as planned. Fortunately, our colonies knew what to do and began producing both supersedure and swarm cells. Several hives had virgin queens preparing for mating. So this year we faced double jeopardy; natural queen replacement requires more time and cuts into the bees' wildflower honey flow collection, but the late freeze impacted the budding of wildflowers and other flowering plants.

In the first week of May, swarming began, and I spent several afternoons capturing swarms and installing them in unoccupied hives. Our swarms occurred at noon, which is typical for us in the mountains. To date, we have captured four and possibly lost two due to height limitations. However, we have had great success with swarms finding empty hives in which to take up residence. As a fellow commercial beekeeper, Katie Goodman, reminded me, the bees like an old dark comb to start their new hive. 🐝

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.** 🐝

David Logue

by *Linda Tillman*, GBA Past-President

David Logue, President of Clark’s Hill Beekeepers and a GBA volunteer in many capacities, lives in the Augusta, GA area. “When I was a little boy, one of my favorite things was to go out in the yard and put my finger on a dandelion flower; let the bee walk on my finger and deliver her to another flower.” His mom would ask him what he was doing, and he’d say, “I’m helping the bee!”

David helped his dad in 1980 when his dad became a beekeeper. David really enjoyed working the bees with his dad. A neighbor then gave four hives to David. One day he came home to find piles of dead bees outside all of his hives. “Probably insecticide,” David says. With this huge loss, he stopped beekeeping.

In 2011, David put back on his bee suit. His kids were grown and he had the time. David loves learning about bees and he loves talking to kids about bees. Before COVID, he went to his wife’s school for science days, and he spoke in churches and synagogues. “The kids and the bees teach me so much. Talk to kids on a simple level, and they come up with the hardest questions.”

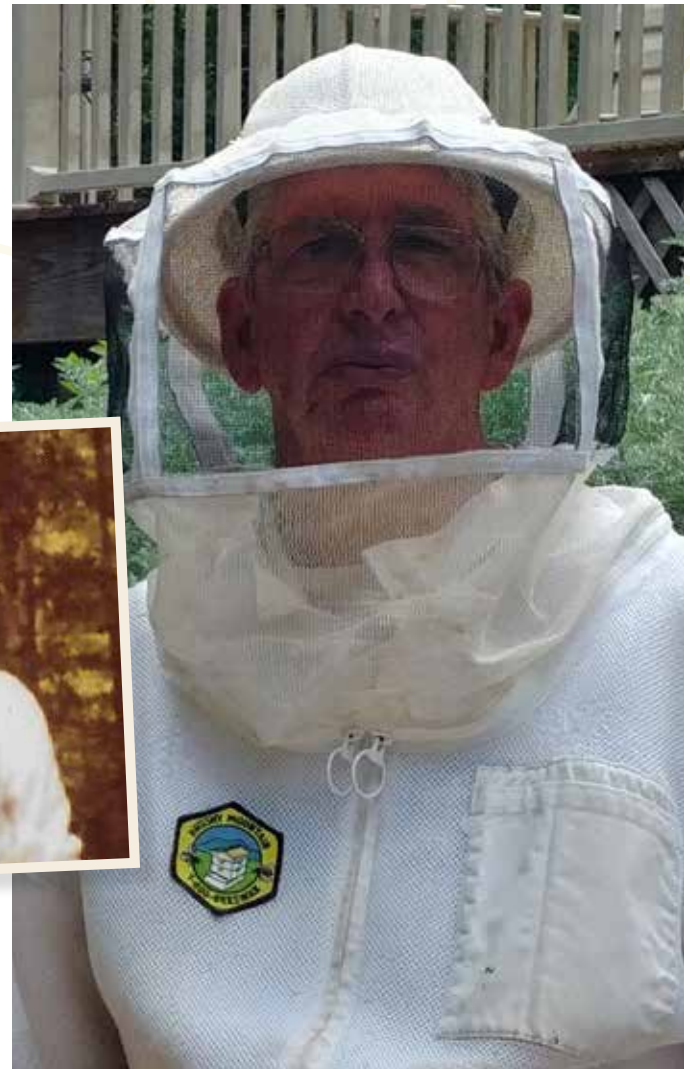
David is also a volunteer as the “bee guy” for the Columbia and Richmond county extension offices. He takes the bee calls from those agencies and uses the opportunity to teach people about honey bees. Once someone called and said, “There is a swarm of honey bees in my holly bush. They go away every night and come back the next day.” David told them gently that it isn’t a swarm, but the bees are there to get food and in a few days, the food will be all gone and they will go away. The pest control companies also call him to help find people to do removals.

David works hard in *three* bee clubs. He is president of Clark’s Hill, vice-president of Augusta and is a member of Brier Creek. He has taught in club bee classes. The Augusta bee club has hives at the Phinizy Swamp Nature Center in

Augusta and David helps with those hives.

In GBA, David is a director on the board, and also serves on the committee working with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to rewrite the regulations for structural honey bee removals. As a director, David enjoys visiting all the different clubs in his region, but COVID has made it difficult to stay in touch. He’s working hard with Stephanie Scott of Brier Creek to energize that club. Some of his clubs are too far away to visit. He would like to see the directors be assigned to regions in which the clubs are not more than two hours away.

(continued on next page)



David learned beekeeping in the 1980s, but hung up his veil following bee kills that left him hiveless. He picked up his smoker again in 2011.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

When GBA met in Augusta, David motivated a whole troop of volunteers to help with registration, baking cookies, and other conference jobs. He made spreadsheets for volunteer assignments and for tracking the sales of GBA merchandise. He told the volunteers from the Augusta area clubs, "Our image is on the line. Several hundred people will be at this meeting and they will get an impression of what beekeeping is in Augusta." He said, "I was lucky to work with an impressive, hard-working group of volunteers."

David has always been someone who enjoys helping. He likes to see things work and likes to contribute to improving organizations and processes. He wants things to be better when he leaves than when he got there.

David is very invested in GBA, in bees, and in beekeeping. He is the kind of behind-the-scenes volunteer that you might miss, but as you can tell, he has put a lot of thought and energy into Georgia beekeeping and has helped GBA in many ways as a volunteer. Thank you, David, for all you do and have done! 🐝



Above: David demonstrates how to install a package of bees during an intro to beekeeping class at Phinizy Swamp Nature Center in Augusta.



"The kids and the bees teach me so much. Talk to kids on a simple level, and they come up with the hardest questions."

– David Logue



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: A Cheap Solar Wax Melter

by *Kathy Bourn*

Some people want to be known for their intelligence or their appearance or their contributions to society. I'm good with being known for my frugality. It turns out that beekeeping is a great outlet for my talents.

I wanted a solar wax melter but couldn't bring myself to get a "store bought" one. Then Randal Kerlin, a member of my Lake Hartwell bee club, demonstrated the electric wax melter he made out of an old cooler. He needed it to work indoors in the winter in order for him and his wife Shairon to be able to make candles and lotions. He wired a light bulb inside the cooler to melt the wax. Well, I had an old cooler so it became my new wax melter.

I just needed an outside solar melter so all I had to do was take the lid off the cooler and insert a board in one end. That allowed me to put in a disposable aluminum roasting pan on a slope. I put a pan in the bottom and after poking some holes in the lower end of the roasting pan, I can put all my cruddy comb in it. I make sure to put a little water in the lower pan to keep the wax from sticking once it cools.

After putting a piece of glass on top, all I have to do is set it in a sunny spot and let the wax drip down to the lower pan. Sometimes you end up with some really interesting wax stalagmites.

I do render the wax one more time with some cheesecloth but the solar melter does most of the work. Afterward, I either give some of the slungum from the roasting plan to my dogs as a treat or toss it in the compost pile. 🐾

Below: An old cooler can be converted to melt wax. Right (top to bottom): With a piece of glass on top, the sun does all the work. Melted wax drips through holes poked in a disposable aluminum roasting pan. Wax floats on water in the catch pan underneath.





ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.

A HONEY OF A CAKE

By Julia Mahood

(Note: For this entry, I used 1.5 recipes)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 2 - 7" round cake pans and line the bottom with greased parchment.

CAKE INGREDIENTS

- 2 sticks butter
- 290g flour
- 2 t. Baking powder
- ½ t. Baking soda
- ¼ t. Fine salt
- 3 Eggs
- 1 C. Buttermilk
- ¾ C. Honey
- ½ t. Vanilla
- ¾ C. Sugar

FROSTING INGREDIENTS

- 1 ¼ C. Crisco
- 1 Stick Butter
- 2 lbs. XXX sugar
- ½ C. scalded milk
- 1 t. Salt
- 1 t. Vanilla
- ½ t. Butter flavoring
- ¼ C. honey brandy

CARAMEL DIPPER

- ½ C. sugar
- 2 T. water

CARAMEL PREPARATION

- Cook in a small saucepan until bubbling, clear and caramel colored
- Pour over upturned cake pans and work dipper until caramel thickens

CAKE PREPARATION

- Sift dry ingredients
- Beat eggs until smooth
- Beat butter, add sugar then eggs a little at a time
- Combine buttermilk, honey and vanilla
- Add to butter mixture alternating with dry ingredients
- Bake 35-40 minutes

FROSTING PREPARATION

- Frost with this frosting recipe
- Mix all in stand mixer until well combined
- Decorate with tinted fondant cut outs of bees and flowers and caramel honey dipper



The 2021 Artisan Show recipes are making the rounds with *Spilling the Honey* readers! This from Charles Tippins:

"I wanted to share a photo of the "Rustic Honey & Almond Naked Cake" my husband Frank baked. I have tasted the batter, buttercream frosting & raspberry curd throughout the baking event. Tonight, we will enjoy!!"



Useful Links for Local Club Presidents



• To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)



• To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**



• To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**



• To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**



• To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**



• To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

Please... Share Your Club's Meeting Plans



We need your info!

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

East Metro Beekeepers

At our May meeting the East Metro Beekeepers were able to get together for an in-person hive inspection at **David Shipp's** bee yard in Conyers. David, along with President **Shannon Rawlins**, shared their expertise in beekeeping pointing out the inner workings of the hive while answering numerous questions from both new and experienced beekeepers. *It was a great time being back together again!* The June 22nd meeting will also be in-person with a question and answer session featuring Certified Beekeepers **David Shipp, Shannon Rawlins** and **Jen Rawlins**. 🍯



Above: David Shipp showing members a frame of honey for extraction (left). Shannon Rawlins inspecting a hive with some new beekeepers (right).

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, May 18th for their monthly in-person meeting. Thirty-three members and guests were in attendance. The program "Apiary Safety and Liability" was presented by **Steven Heath, BSN** and **Ryan English**, attorney. The club learned the physiological ways the body reacts to bee stings, snake bites and carbon monoxide poisoning. The proper way to lift items while working the colonies was also discussed. Case law, as well as the legal aspects of beekeeping, were presented. A three-frame nuc was raffled and the winner was **Ricky Vining**. Our next meeting (June 15, 7:00 pm) will feature **Nik Jett** and **Jonathan Brown's** "Cut Comb Assistant." **For information, visit www.HOGBA.org**. 🍯



Above left (l to r): Ryan English, attorney, HOGBA President Anita Curry and Steven Heath, BSN. Above right: Ricky Vining, the May meeting's nuc winner with HOGBA President Anita Curry.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, May 17th, Oglethorpe County Bee Club hosted a virtual meeting. Our presenter was **Dr. Jörg Mayer** of the University of Georgia Veterinary School. He oversees the UGA Veterinary School beekeeping program. His topic was "**The Use Of Biosensors To Assess The Health Of The Bee Colony Superorganism.**"

Because of recent advances in information technology and sensor miniaturization, and commercial access to low-cost hardware and software, many devices are currently available for obtaining health data of a hive.



Some of the things beekeepers can monitor with appropriate and available hardware/software are temperature, weight, sound, and thermal heat which can give us a great deal of information about the hive superorganism as a "patient." Jörg proceeded to show us examples of instrumentation and the data that can be gleaned from such equipment. Some of these measurements may actually be refined enough in the future to predict swarm behavior which would be one of the most important pieces of information a beekeeper can have. When asked what is the first choice for obtaining hardware to monitor hives, his response was "temperature." 🍯

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Oak Park Community House 106 NW Railroad Ave., Oak Park, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm		June 7	Garden Club president Kathryn Fowler, will be speaking on the importance of plants and trees best suited for nectar and pollination for honey bees.	beecolson@gmail.com	Tattnall
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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	In person	June 8	Annual Club Picnic at Hebron Baptist Church. Please click here for more details / to RSVP.	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm		June 19, 10:00am - 2:00pm	In-person Field Trip/Workshop- Moose Lodge: Testing for Mites, Medications – Effectiveness & Limitation YouTube: Mite Evaluation: Sugar Shake and Alcohol Wash	weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm	In person	June 7	Varroa Management Panel Discussion with experienced club members, plus club raffle.	clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	In person	June 14	"BEENEVOLENT Inspection Sheet" – recording & measuring colony health with Sade Shofidiya, Savannah State graduate student, college bee club president.	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	1400 Parker Rd SE Conyers, GA 30094	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm		June 22	Question & answer session with our club's Certified Beekeepers	eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	1st Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Zoom: link e-mailed with newsletter to paid members	June 24	Honey Extraction Techniques – Bobby Chaisson, past GBA Beekeeper of the Year	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Life Church Student Center Hwy 41 and Todd Road, Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm		June 15	"Cut Comb Assistant" – Nik Jett and Jonathan Brown	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	via Zoom	June 15	Using Nematodes to Control Small Hive Beetles: Izzy Hill, USDA Pollinator Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Scientist	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm		June 10	Beginner Beekeeping Class, Part III: Tips And Tricks Of Beekeeping – Julia Mahood; A Year in the Bee Yard – Bob Binnie will discuss	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbcbecclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm	In person	June 1		threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm		June 21	Apitherapy –Bella Donna, Apitherapist,	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial 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 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy summer to all of our beekeeper friends. As Julia Mahood would say, *happy summer to all the bee people –Beople!*

In addition to the digital signage and radio spots I wrote about last month, our local club presidents and GBA directors have been tasked with sending press releases and samples of the GBA Save The Honey Bee license plate to local newspapers across the state in order to help get articles written about the great things GBA is doing with the proceeds from this program. National Honey Day (August 21, 2021) provides a great tie-in for media outlets interested in doing stories about this.

I received a request from a local tag office for a sample plate. They want to show that our Save the Honey Bee plate is available in their office. Katie Goodman was kind enough to mail them one. *Thank you, Katie!* If you are in your tag office and don't see our life size sample license plate, please let me know and we will get them one to display.

Our license plate committee recently approved grants to purchase pollinator plants for the Chattooga Beekeepers and their community. The committee also approved Forsyth County Beekeepers for a new membership software program, and educational video and photo equipment to record and live stream beekeeping education. The committee is excited to grant money to other GBA member applicants. These grants are intended to educate beekeepers or the general public about honey bees. These projects or programs are as varied as the "people" who think of them!

This is also the time of year when the **GBA Beekeeper of the Year** committee receives your nominations for our next recipient. This is not a popularity contest. This committee is looking for the top GBA members who contribute to beekeeping in Georgia or elsewhere. The best nominations are written with descriptive examples of what your nominee does to promote beekeeping, help beekeepers and or educate about all things honey bee related anywhere. See page two for complete details.

We are really happy and excited to see everyone in Gainesville on Sept. 24-26 for our Fall Conference. *Watch your email for registration information coming soon!* 📧

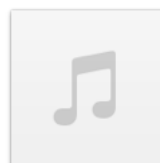
- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



The GBA license plate ad displayed on a digital sign board at a MARTA bus stop. The ads are running in Atlanta's Midtown and Piedmont Park neighborhoods.



*To hear the GBA license plate radio spot currently airing on Georgia Public Broadcasting, **click here.***

Ga Beekeepers
Radio Ad.mp3

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

2021 GBA Beekeeper of the Year

by *Linda Tillman*, Chair, Beekeeper of the Year Committee

It's time to nominate outstanding members of our beekeeping community for GBA's Beekeeper of the Year 2021. The GBA Beekeeper of the Year is a GBA member who has not only demonstrated and promoted good beekeeping, but who is also an outstanding volunteer. Traditionally, past Beekeepers of the Year are not awarded the honor again. **Past recipients are listed on the GBA website.**

Our bylaws include these guidelines for the characteristics of the Beekeeper of the Year:

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 nominated beekeepers will be evaluated based on what is written about them on the nominating forms. **It's not a matter of how many nominations come in for that person, but rather the qualities of that person as described by those who submit the forms.** So it's important to do your best to tell the committee why (with specific examples) you think this person deserves the award. If you say simply, "Person X deserves this award and meets the qualifications," the committee doesn't have any examples to go on and most of the committee may not know your nominee.

To nominate someone, fill out this form by clicking here.

Both the person filling out the form and the person being nominated have to be current GBA members.

This year's committee is composed of members from different quadrants of the state:

- Linda Tillman, Chair
- Mickey Anderson
- Emily Heath
- Stephanie Scott
- Ben Williams

The committee will first ensure that all nominations are eligible. Then after July 15, when nominations close, **based on what is written about the nominees**, they will select three people as finalists. The GBA board of directors will then vote by secret ballot to select the Beekeeper of the Year.

We encourage you to honor your members by nominating them. All nominated beekeepers will be informed that they were nominated, so even if not selected for the award, it's a nice way to honor those you respect and admire. The committee is looking forward to learning about outstanding members of our community from across the state. 🍯



GBA Elections: You Could Help Shape GBA's Future!

Would you like to help shape the future of GBA? Would you like to be part of making other clubs in your area be the best they can be? Help new and current beekeepers get the most out of GBA? *Then we need you!!!!*

GBA is led and directed by a group of volunteers who work to support the local clubs throughout the state, to plan and host training meetings in the state every year, and so much more.

We are actively seeking people who would like to be part of making

a difference for beekeepers all over Georgia. Is that you? We will be electing three regional directors, the treasurer, and secretary. If you would like to help shape the future of GBA, please let us know that you would like to run for one of these positions. The information about each position can be found here: <http://gabeekeeping.com/Documents/bylaws.pdf>

If you would like to run for one of these positions, please contact **Bobby Chaisson at Bobby@gabeeremoval.com**

GBA is bringing in a lot of money from honey bee license plate sales and we're awarding it to GBA clubs and members to support a variety of educational beekeeping initiatives across Georgia.



Learning from Bees in Athens, GA by Rita Mathew, Master Gardener & aspiring beekeeper

Thanks to the GBA License Plate initiative, funds have been made available for the purchase and placement of beehives at the Athens-Clarke County Extension. Guidance from Dan Long, President of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association, and Laura Ney, Extension Agent for Athens-Clarke County Extension Office, was a crucial first step towards making this dream for an educational

honey bee program a reality. Enthusiastic efforts of Bee Team members to paint the hives, learn about nucs, and how to protect the new colonies, is not just evidence of funds well spent, but also a prediction of the need for investing in programs to teach about the science behind bee behavior and the lessons it holds in regards to intentional living. 🐝



Left to right: Dan Long prepares the ground; Dan Long and Laura Ney set up bee hives; Bee Team members take a closer look at the colonies.

Bee Science in Action in Sandy Springs, GA

STEM education never stops at Riverwood International Charter High School in Sandy Springs. Thanks to a grant provided by the GBA License Plate Committee, the school's Bee-Team installed a Broodminder Citizen Science Kit, allowing the kids to track hive weight, humidity and temperature.

So many questions are now being asked: Will we be able to tell when the bees will swarm? When is the nectar flow starting/ending? How does air quality affect hive health? And how can we analyze data from other apiaries around the globe as part of **BeeCounted.org**? The grant provided by GBA is allowing Riverwood students to engage in learning and see how important pollinators are in our urban ecosystem. The grant also bought us new supers, native plants and some additional tools to help maintain the apiary. *Thank you GBA for helping us put science into action!* 🐝



How to Apply for GBA License Plate Funds

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.** 🐝

Upcoming Fall Honey Shows

The time to start working on your exhibits is now!

by **Brutz English**, GBA Honey Show Committee Chair

Honey show season will be here before you know it! This fall we have two really big honey shows coming up, each with over \$5,000 in cash and prizes up for grabs. These honey shows have some of the richest prize pots in the country, and both are right here in Georgia!

The first is the **GBA Honey & Beeswax Show**. This show will be held on September 24th, at the GBA Fall Conference in Gainesville, GA. The GBA Honey & Beeswax Show is the Georgia State Championship for all of your honey and beeswax hive products. You have to be a GBA member and you have to register for (and attend) the Fall Conference to enter exhibits in this honey show. Complete rules and class descriptions can be found at http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Documents/Rules_Honey&Beeswax_2021.pdf

The second big honey show is the **Georgia National Fair Honey Show**, which will be held on October 9th at the GA National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. The GANF Honey Show is the largest open honey show in the southeast, and (as of this year) has *the largest overall prize pot of*

any honey show in the nation! Furthermore, as of this year, exhibitors now have the option to submit entries to the GANF Honey Show by mail, and to have their exhibits returned via mail after the fair concludes. The GBA and the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers have generously put up the prize money for this show. Complete rules and class descriptions can be found at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Documents/2021%20GANF%20Honey%20Show%20Rules.pdf>

This year is going to be HUGE for honey shows! The time to start working on those exhibits is now. With a little preparation and effort, anyone can potentially bring home ribbons, prize money, and/or big-time bragging rights. Not to mention, just participating in a honey show will help to make you a better producer of hive products. Start planning now for the fall honey show season, and we look forward to seeing you there! Should you have any questions about any of our upcoming honey shows, please check the GBA webpage at <http://www.gabeekeeping.com/Georgia/honeyShows>, or email the GAB Honey Show Committee Chair at brutzenglish@gmail.com 🐝



UGA Master Beekeeper Program Reaches Milestone: 1,000 Certified Beekeepers

The UGA Master Beekeeper Program, now in its nineteenth year, has certified more than 1,000 beekeepers from 22 states and two countries. Becoming a UGA certified beekeeper requires passing a rigorous written and practical test, as well as at least one year of beekeeping experience. The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association was honored to host two UGA certified beekeeper testing sessions at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve Field Research Center in Atlanta on May 1 and June 5, 2021. The test sessions produced 39 newly certified beekeepers, including **Moreen Rebeira** – *lucky number 1,000 for the UGA Master Beekeeper Program!* MABA congratulates all of our newly certified members and encourages them to continue their beekeeping education by pursuing the Journeyman and Master certifications! MABA would also like to thank Master Beekeepers Jay Hendrix and Brutz English, who served as external examiners for these test dates. 🍯



Above (top): Julia Mahood, Bobby Chaisson, Gina Gallucci and Brutz English review test results; (below) beekeepers check-in at Blue Heron Nature Preserve's Field Research Center ahead of taking their exam.

Certified Beekeepers (June 5, 2021 test session)

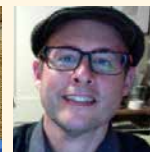
- Matthew Alexander
- Ellen Ausely
- Kevin Bentley
- Anita Curry
- Lisa Douglas
- Shannon Durham
- Hedi England
- Jason Foresman
- Drew Johnson
- Scott Lambert
- Lee Mathis
- Pat McNeil
- Karen Miller
- Stan Okon
- Jason Paffenback
- JP Pennie
- Rob Schreiner
- Diana Shirah
- Christopher Shutts
- Kevin Workman

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
gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Junior Beekeeper Programs Give Metro Atlanta Kids An Up-Close Look At Beekeeping

by **Peter Helfrich**, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

On June 12, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association volunteers staged the third of four annual Junior Beekeeper programs. Designed for children ages 6 to 13, and presented at different locations around the greater Atlanta area, these events offer a unique opportunity for kids (and some parents) to have a close-up, hands-on experience with our most powerful pollinators.

Led by MABA beekeepers **Edward Morgan, Jr.**, **Brooke Vacovsky** and **Peter Helfrich**, each day-long program begins with an illustrated, introductory talk about honey bees, and an opportunity to spot the queen and other members of the colony in an observation hive. Next, a show-and-tell session allows the children to handle and learn about a wide assortment of beekeeping and honey production tools. The morning wraps up with each participant using glue and nails to assemble a woodenware frame and color a picture to take home as a souvenir.

Following a brown bag lunch, the afternoon's highlight is suiting up and opening a beehive! It's an experience they'll never forget when each child has the opportunity to handle a frame covered with bees. Pollen, honey, developing brood and other features of life inside the hive are all identified and discussed. Then, it's time for honey extraction and a chance to learn how honey gets from the bees into a jar. The kids then sample a variety of different honeys. At the end of the day, everyone leaves with a goody bag filled with information about honey bees and other pollinators and, of course, a small jar of honey to savor at home.

The final MABA Junior Beekeepers program of 2021 will be held on Saturday, September 11, 10 am to 3 pm, at Dunwoody Nature Center. A few spots are still available. You must register in advance. **For more information, visit the MABA website: https://metroatlantabeekeepers.org/jr_beekeepers/**



Above: MABA's Brooke Vacovsky introduces the group to the fascinating world of honey bees.

Above: Holding a frame of bees is an experience participants won't soon forget; A taste of freshly uncapped honey is a hit with junior beekeepers; Ed Morgan prepares to open a hive for the group; Ed Morgan and Peter Helfrich prepare a frame for extraction.

THE JOURNEY TO BETTER COLONY MANAGEMENT

– PART 4: FIRST FLOW –

Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles that could be useful to beginners and those struggling to keep their bees alive.

At my apiary, we were expecting less wildflower flow, given the late but abundant nectar sources. The tulip poplars' replacement budding bloomed late and was smaller than the primary bloom. Fortunately, the bees brought in diverse pollens and nectars, including locust tree nectar.

While April and May had their usual rainfall, the latter part of May and early June were warmer and drier, allowing the bees to dry and cap the honey. In early May (the principal swarm period at our 2,000 foot elevation), we captured five new swarms from apiaries.

During the third week in June, we pulled the fully-capped wildflower supers. To preserve the unique flavors associated with each apiary location, every super gets marked to allow processing by apiary. Empty supers then replaced the removed wildflower supers to prepare for the sourwood flow. We generally use a double deep setup to build sufficient stores for the winter months and a larger number of bees to support collection. One of my commercial beekeeper friends suggested using single deeps to encourage more storing of honey in



by **Bob Grant**,
*Turning Creek
Artisans*

supers instead of the second deep. But due to the lack of queens, it was not possible to divide the hives. Raising new queens would further limit the wildflower honey collection due to time constraints.

The majority of hives had their inner covers full of bees – a sign that those hives were ready for the sourwood flow. One hive, however, was without a queen. Upon opening, it had no bees on the top cover but a noticeable, agitated hum; together, both conditions indicate the hive as being queenless or with a failing queen. Further inspection showed no eggs or open brood, and fortunately, no evidence of laying workers. I had a NUC with an excellent queen and all frames with substantial capped and uncapped brood, so I combined the two with the NUC placed in the upper hive body and separated by a newspaper sheet. Within a week, we will know if this was effective.

We haven't used Queen Excluders (QE) for ten years, but are using them this year. Many beekeepers seem to be split on the use of QEs, feeling that the QEs interfere with honey production and storage. However, using them hasn't appeared to interfere with the honey collection process since the supers are now full and mostly capped.

Until next time, enjoy your bees! 🍯

Pollinator Plant of the Month by Ian Dawe, Secretary Nashville Beekeepers Association

Editor's Note: The Nashville Beekeepers Association was so impressed with the quality of our newsletter that they asked to use a couple of our articles. In exchange, we are borrowing this one from their newsletter.

Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

TYPE: Herbaceous perennial Family: Asteraceae
NATIVE RANGE: S. Ont. to NC, w. to e. Great Plains
ZONE: 3 to 9
HEIGHT: 4.00 to 8.00 feet Spread: 1.00 to 3.00 feet
BLOOM TIME: June to September
BLOOM DESCRIPTION: Yellow
SUN: Full sun
WATER: Medium to wet
MAINTENANCE: Low
SUGGESTED USE: Naturalize, Rain Garden
FLOWER: Showy
ATTRACTS: Birds, Butterflies
TOLERATE: Clay Soil, Wet Soil

Silphium perfoliatum, commonly called cup plant, is a coarse sunflower-like, native plant which occurs in low woods and thickets, meadows, prairie stream/pond peripheries and along railroad tracks. It typically grows on tough, erect stems to 4-8' tall and is distinguished from the other silphiums by its square/quadrangular stems and pairs of cup-forming leaves. Flower heads (to 3" diameter) featuring light yellow rays (20-40) and darker yellow center disks bloom in summer on the upper part of the plant. Rough, triangular to ovate, coarsely toothed, opposite, connate-perfoliate, medium green leaves. 🍯



Photos & Information Courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center & Missouri Botanical Garden. Additional information from Shannon R. Trimboli "Plants Honey Bees Use in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys"

Derrick Fowler

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Derrick Fowler, Vice-President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, became a beekeeper in 2010 after watching UGA's Dr. Keith Delaplane on television. On the RFD TV Channel, a series ran called "Honey Bees and Beekeeping." Derrick just found the channel and the program accidentally. But he was hooked. He didn't want to miss an

episode. He managed to watch every single one of them.

At the time, his parents lived in Franklin, NC, and told him about a beekeeping course in nearby Bryson City, NC. The course was taught by the local club, the **Smoky Mountain Beekeepers**. Robert Brewer was one of the instructors. Derrick took the course and, as most of us do, he bought the "stuff" and became a beekeeper.

Derrick said, "When I was a kid, I was the one with the plastic bug catcher. It came with a magnifying glass and you caught bugs and looked at them." But the bug catcher wasn't enough for Derrick. In his Florida childhood, Derrick frequently emptied his pencil box to fill it up with caterpillars and snails on his way to school! He remembers that there were lots of flowering trees in Florida – the **loquat**, the yellow **jacaranda**, and the **golden rain tree** – "all always buzzing with bees."

These days, Derrick and his wife, Kim, live in Hoschton, Georgia, where they've been since 2005. His lot is about 1 ½ acres so he has lovely woodland for his bees. He has 20 hives of bees.

Derrick likes the details of the honey bee – the life cycle, hive construction, seasonal changes. "I enjoy seeing bees in my yard. I like to focus on something, and you have to have a calm about you when you are working bees." He likes swarm catching adventures and does some grafting and queen rearing.

Derrick belongs to two bee clubs: Beekeepers of Gwinnett and Eastern Piedmont. His work life kept him from lots of bee meetings, but he enjoys both clubs and has made a lot of friends through the fellowship of the clubs. He likes knowing people with a common interest and there are opportunities to learn new bee things from guest speakers.

Derrick served as the president of Beekeepers of Gwinnett for three years. He also helped with the club's bee school. He helps at the Gwinnett County Environmental and Heritage Center when they hold bee-related events and he helps with a booth at the Gwinnett County fair.

In GBA, Derrick began being active as a director. Then he
(continued on next page)



Derrick Fowler's interest in insects started when he was a boy.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

served as secretary while Linda Tillman was president. In that role, one of his many responsibilities was to send cards to GBA members who were sick or who had experienced a loss. When we heard about someone's illness or loss, Derrick always had the right bee card for the occasion. He

“Volunteering is a great way to make an organization run a little more smoothly. The tasks go better when we work together. The volunteers are what make the machine of the GBA work smoothly and the local clubs as well.”

acknowledged that it was easier to find get well cards that were bee related and much, much harder to find sympathy cards that were bee themed. Many GBA members received one of Derrick's thoughtful cards. He often bought out the rack at Target when he found a card he liked.

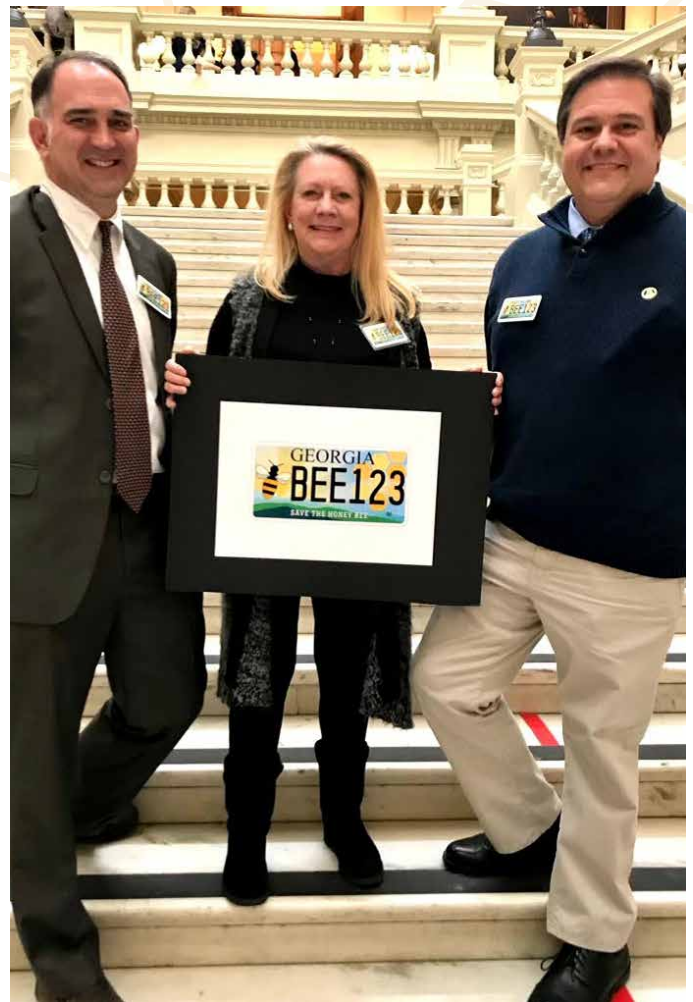
Derrick has volunteered for GBA in many roles. Some

roles automatically put you on a committee. For example, the GBA vice-president has to approve all financial decisions, so Derrick serves on the license plate proceeds committee and chairs the conference committee because both involve money matters and GBA. The amount of financial responsibility that goes with the VP position surprised Derrick, but he has stepped up to the job and is working hard at it.

On the fun side of things, Derrick enjoyed going to the capitol to support the passage of the GBA license plate vote. “It's the best looking plate in the nation,” he says. He helped handle a demonstration booth at Fernbank Science Center a couple of years ago. He has worked the raffle ticket sales, sold t-shirts and magnets, and helped with the GBA election. “I like to help,” Derrick said. “If I take a load off of someone else, I find that rewarding, and I like to meet people.”

Derrick has a great approach to volunteering: “I just think that when you sign up for something like GBA, you make yourself available. And volunteering is a great way to make an organization run a little more smoothly. The tasks go better when we work together. The volunteers are what make the machine of the GBA work smoothly and the local clubs as well.”

Derrick sets a good example for us all in his volunteering for GBA jobs. 🐝



Above (top): Derrick speaks to a crowd during a beekeeping demonstration. (below, left to right) Tim Doherty, Gail Dean and Derrick Fowler on the steps of the Georgia capitol.



ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.

PORTUGUESE SWEET BREAD WITH HONEY

By Linda Tillman

This bread is often served on Easter tables. It reminds me of my mother's dinner rolls.

To make the sponge:

- 1 ½ T active yeast dissolved in ½ cup warm water
- 1 cup warm milk (105-115 degrees)
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 cups bread flour

Beat until smooth. Let sit covered for about an hour.

Stir down the sponge.

Add:

- 8 T butter cut into small pieces
- ½ cup honey
- 2 tsp salt
- 3 large room temp eggs
- 3 ½ - 4 cups bread flour

Mix together the first four ingredients and 1 cup flour. Beat until smooth. Add the rest of the flour ½ cup at a time. Knead for three to five minutes until the dough is smooth, soft and springy.

Put in a greased pan to rise for 1 ½ hours.

On a floured surface cut dough into halves. Gently shape into round tight loaf. Put loaves on a silicone baking mat on a cookie sheet to rise again until doubled (about 40 minutes).

Preheat the oven to 375°. Optional: Brush loaves with egg glaze – 1 egg yolk whisked with 1 T heavy cream.

Bake in the center of the oven for 35 - 40 minutes or until golden brown with an interior temp of around 200 degrees.

Cool completely before slicing.





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Honey Bucket Tipper

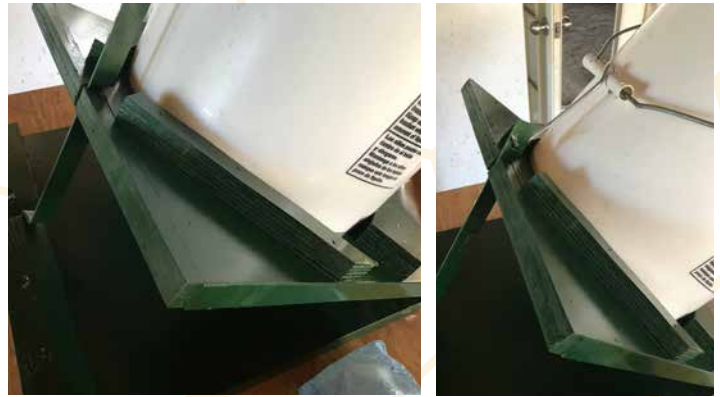
by *Kathy Bourn*

Getting that last drop of honey out of a honey bucket easily is usually a test of a beekeeper's agility (*and patience*). While one hand tips the bucket, the other one has to keep the bottle under the honey gate. The result is often not pretty.

That is why my honey bucket tipper was born. All it took was a few pieces of wood, a couple hinges and a notched piece of metal. I bottle my honey from a summer kitchen counter, so I set the tipper there and that allows me to sit on a stool while I work. When the bucket is full I keep the tipper flat. When the honey level lowers, there are notches in the metal piece that allows me to tip the bucket up into two positions. To make sure the bucket doesn't slip, I secure the handle with a metal clip. The tipper is also heavy enough that it doesn't flip over when the bucket is tipped forward.

This honey bucket tipper design can be modified to your situation. *It sure makes bottling honey a lot sweeter!* 🍯

Below: The honey bucket tipper can be positioned flat or in one of two different up positions.



Above: The honey bucket tipper can be positioned flat or in one of two different up positions. Heavy enough to prevent flipping over, the honey bucket tipper allows you to get the last bit of honey in the bucket. Bottling honey just got a little bit sweeter –and easier!





Useful Links for Local Club Presidents



- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)



- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**



- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**



- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**



- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**



- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

Please...



We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

WUFO
By Appointment

Local Club Meeting Plans for Upcoming Month

Please take a few minutes to fill this form in so your club's schedule can be published in the GBA Spring the Honey Newsletter. The information on this form is sent to the newsletter to share your meeting topics/speakers with other GBA members.

Club Name *

Date of Next Month's Meeting
The Newsletter comes out the first week of the month so while you will receive this form, for example, in August, the meeting we want to know about is your next month's meeting in September.

MM DD YYYY

Time of your next meeting
HH MM SS AM/PM

Our meeting is in the usual place? *

Yes
 No

Speaker/Program for Upcoming Meeting - Please list name of speaker and their topic.
If there is no speaker, what is the program?
(For example: Panel discussion with experienced members on fall hive management) *

Speaker's Topic (if available)

By default, we send this form to the club president. Is there someone else who should get this who is in charge of your club's program? Please supply their email address below.

If you have a bee school/short course coming up in the next few months, please put the date/location/sign up information in the box below.

Submit

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

East Metro Beekeepers: Summer Social, July 27

East Metro Beekeepers held a very informative, in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting in June as members **David Shipp**, **Shannon Rawlins** and **Jen Rawlins** answered various questions from club members. Just a few of the topics covered included summer management, splitting hives, and hive beetles. Our July 27th meeting will be a **Summer Social** outside at the church picnic pavilion. Members should bring a side dish to go along with the club provided chicken entrée. The Club meets at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013. 📍



Left to right: Jen Rawlins, David Shipp, and Shannon Rawlins



Anita Curry, HOGBA President, Nik Jett with a Comb Assistant, and Barbara Cook, raffle winner.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Twenty-nine members of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, June 15 at the Fair Bridge Inn Express. The program for the night was a presentation on the Comb Assistant. **Nik Jett** and **Jonathan Brown** have created an insert for frames so that cut comb can be harvested. Nik explained the development and process of assembling the device. Their original design was for a deep frame, yet they have recently modified the design to fit a medium one. A Comb Assistant for a shallow frame is in the works. A raffle was held for a set of two Comb Assistants with the winner being **Barbara Cook**. If you are interested in the Comb Assistant, please contact Nik Jett at 478-550-4956 or email runningwildapiaries@gmail.com. HOGBA's next meeting will be July 20 and the speaker will be **Bob Binnie** of Blue Ridge Honey Company. Visit HOGBA.org for more information. 📍



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association: Varroa Workshop, July 11

This summer, MABA's Chastain Park teaching apiary is participating in the **Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) Sentinel apiary program**. GBA has generously funded our participation in this program, and part of this effort includes a **Varroa workshop** that we are hosting on July 11. Everyone is welcome, but this workshop will most likely be helpful to those in the first few years of beekeeping.

The purpose of this event is twofold: 1.) to provide education on varroa control; and 2.) to participate in an Auburn University study on what method of education works best – in person teaching with a hands-on component, or watching a pre-recorded instructional video online. *So while you are being educated, you'll be participating in research on education!*

After registering, participants will be randomly sorted into two

groups: one group will meet in-person and the other will be sent a link to do the training online at home. You will be notified of which group you are in by July 10.

The in-person event will be held at Chastain Park Conservancy, 4001 Powers Ferry Road, Atlanta 30342. Online participants will be given a link to watch the training at home within two weeks. **You must register in advance for this event by filling out this form.** For other questions, reach out to **Julia Mahood**. 📍



The educational MABA/BIP Varroa Workshop will be held on July 11.



West Georgia Beekeepers Association: Beekeeping Short Course, July 24

An adult **Short Course in Beekeeping** will be offered by the West Georgia Beekeepers Association on Saturday, July 24, 2021, 8 am – 4 pm, at the American Legion Post 145, 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway in Douglasville, GA. Your registration includes a copy of Dr. Keith Delaplane's "First Lessons in Beekeeping" (one copy per family), handouts, breakfast, lunch and a snack, and an annual membership to West Georgia Beekeepers Association. To register, mail your name(s), address, phone number, e-mail address and a check for \$50.00 (per person) to: WGBA Treasurer, PO Box 5053, Douglasville, GA 30154. Please make checks payable to West GA Beekeepers Association. For questions/more information, call 678-614-8627 or visit: westgabeekeepers.com 📍

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Oak Park Community House 106 NW Railroad Ave., Oak Park, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm				beecolson@gmail.com	Tattall
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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	In person	July 13	Dr. Lewis Bartlet (UGA Bee Lab)	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm	In person			clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	In person			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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm		July 27	Summer Social – Members should bring a side dish to go along with the club provided chicken entrée.	eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	1st Monday, 7:00pm		July 5	Dr. Keith Delaplane (UGA Bee Lab)	EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	In person	July 24	4 p.m. at pecan orchard (corner of Dr. Dunn Rd. and Bettis Tribble Gap Rd.) Parking will be in the pasture. Please bring your own chairs and water.	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Life Church Student Center Hwy 41 and Todd Road, Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	via Zoom	July 20	William Hesbach: The Ins and Outs of Ventilation, or Dispelling Beekeeping Folklore About Ventilation	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm		July 8	Beginner Beekeeper Course - Part IV: Jennifer Berry (UGA Bee Lab) discussing Varroa mites and what to do about them.	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm		July 8	Jonathank Nixon: DOA Licensing and Inspections for Selling Bees	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm	In person			threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm	In person	July 26	Panel Discussion: Experienced members will participate in question and answer sessions with new members.	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.*

A Remembrance

The Resilient Queen, the Understanding Mentor & the Bee Empath

By Lorraine Kaliher

Pete Rountree was my mentor. He would say, “There are as many opinions about everything related to bees as there are beekeepers and every one of them is right.” I don’t think he ever just gave me advice; he always seemed to wait for my questions and would provide as much information as I could handle at the time. One thing that would put a look of amazement on his face was when I could not accept being the cause of the death of one of my little bees. So he would take a soft brush and make sure all the bees were in a safe position when closing the top of the hive or placing a frame back in the boxes. He would always remind me that there were lots of bees in the hives and some loss was inevitable but he understood and honored my concern.

Another thing Pete was tolerant of was my inability to get my smoker going as I just didn’t like fire and didn’t want that for my bees. He said my option of using a light mixture of Honey Bee Healthy and water seemed to keep my bees occupied and was right for me.

One day, the activity from one of my hives had diminished noticeably, so Pete came over to help me explore the hive. On examination there was not much brood. We couldn’t find the old queen and saw some queen cells that weren’t open. So, Pete advised that we should probably get the hive a mated queen from the Vidalia Bee Company. I put the cage containing the queen and her attendants in a small brown paper sack, gave her a drop of water and a drop of honey and put them in a little cooler for extra protection until I could get her in her new home. Pete showed me how to tie a little string around the box so it would not slip and we placed it carefully between frames. We watched for a minute, then left them to get to know each other. Pete said not to disturb them for at least two days.

Two days later, I was anxious to check but had to work late. I opened the hive around 6 pm and found that she was still in the cage and the other bees were all over it. I called Pete with concern and sent him some pictures. He said their behavior

of “balling the box” showed that they weren’t accepting her. Possibly a queen cell had opened and the bees accepted the hatched queen. Pete said that I should remove the new queen. I did this and noticed that only one of her helpers was alive. I immediately put a drop of water and honey on her screen as Pete said she probably hadn’t been nourished. He said she probably wouldn’t make it. I felt so terrible for putting her in this situation and asked Pete to help me find an alternative to help her stay alive.

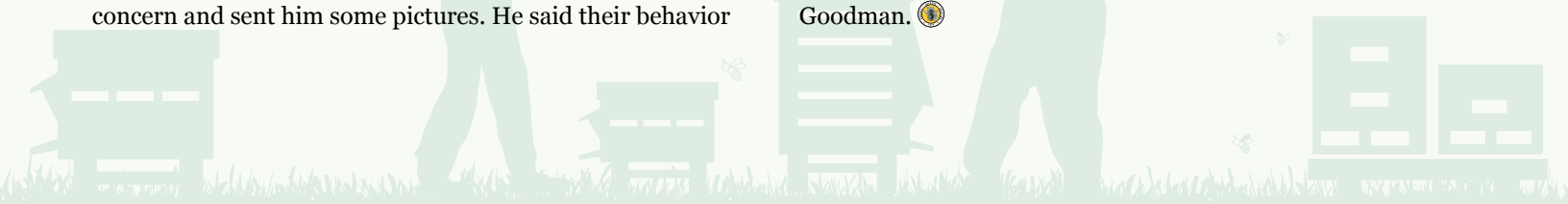
Pete instructed me to get a nuc box and tape it up (all but the top and the opening for sugar water for the feeder) and place the nuc under a shelter so that the heat of the day wouldn’t stress her.

Then I stole at least three frames of bees with honey from the top box where the queen excluder blocked their queen from entry. I put these frames in the nuc box, closed it and put it in the sheltered area. (At this point, I want to thank Pete’s sweet wife for putting up with all of these phone calls at night!) This was quite challenging in the dark, however, Pete supported me through this. At the shelter, we had what sounded like some unhappy bees. Pete said, “Spray your bees with your Honey Bee Healthy water and place the queen exactly as we did the first time. Put the final drop of water and honey on her cage and close up the box. This is her best chance of survival.”

In two days, Pete came and we opened the box. She was out of the little cage as the candy was eaten and Pete showed me little eggs being put in the cells by our resilient little queen bee. She became a successful queen, having lots of baby bees and making a very strong hive.

My first beekeeping classes were at J C Campbell Folk School and then again with Virginia Webb and Katie Goodman. I learned so much. Information plus experience equals knowledge. Remember as Pete said, “All beekeepers have an opinion and we are all right.” I am not an efficient, confident beekeeper, but like Pete, I care about the bees and want them to be safe. I pray that all new beekeepers will have a mentor like Pete Rountree, and teachers like Virginia Webb and Katie Goodman. 🍯

“There are as many opinions about everything related to bees as there are beekeepers and every one of them is right.”





Spilling *The* Honey

AUGUST 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy August and end of the summer! Our GBA conference planning committee is finishing up with details for our in-person conference which will be held September 23-25 in Gainesville, Georgia. The Ramsey Conference Center is a beautiful space with lots of room for well-attended breakout talks and an excellent banquet room for our keynote speakers. This center features the largest space for vendors and sponsors that we have ever had in a wonderful glass lobby. We are very happy to be coming together in person.

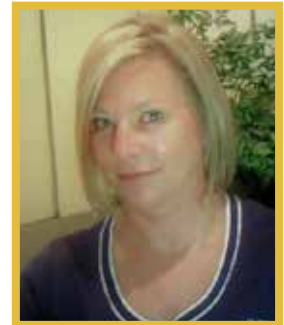
We are having the Journeyman and Master beekeeping lectures and testing during the day on Thursday, as well as Welsh honey judge training. The GBA board meeting is Thursday afternoon. We will have lectures Friday and our catered dinner in the main banquet room, and Saturday, in addition to keynote speakers and breakouts, will feature our business meeting and election results. Our business meeting will also provide a review for all our members of the various uses and benefits of the Save the Bees license plate proceeds.

Our keynote speakers are Tom Seeley, Victoria Soroker, Jennifer Leavey, Johnathan Lundgren, and Jim Tew. Our breakout speakers are Jennifer Berry, Joe Conti, Brutz English, Jimmy Gatt, David Holloman, Barry Hart, Emily Heath, David Kirsulis, Dan Long, Olivia Menard, Bobby Thanepohn. Bobby Chassion will present backyard basics for beginners with live beehives.

This is the first in-person conference since the spring of 2020. We are so excited to be getting to see each other in this superb space.

Registration is now open. Later in this newsletter, the keynote speakers are being featured. 🍯

– *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER NOW

See Fall Conference Preview Coverage on Pages 5-10



Useful Links for Local Club Presidents



• To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)



• To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**



• To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**



• To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**



• To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**



• To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

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.** 



Pollinator Plant of the Month

Often not thought of as a honey bee plant, but you will find your bees (and many other pollinators) all over fennel during the summer dearth.

Foeniculum vulgare, called common fennel, is an upright, branching perennial that is typically grown in vegetable and herb gardens for its anise-flavored foliage and seeds, both of which are commonly harvested for use in cooking. It somewhat resembles a very large dill plant. It grows to 3-5' (less frequently to 6') tall and features feathery, compound, aromatic, yellow-green leaves with needle-like segments and tiny yellow flowers in large, flattened, compound umbels. Flowers bloom in mid- to late summer, and are followed by aromatic seeds. Plants have escaped gardens and naturalized in many parts of North America. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies. Fennel is a larval plant for certain swallowtail butterflies. 🐝



Photo by Kathy Bourn

Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

TYPE: Herbaceous perennial

FAMILY: Apiaceae

NATIVE RANGE: Mediterranean

ZONE: 4 to 9

HEIGHT: 4.00 to 6.00 feet

SPREAD: 1.50 to 3.00 feet

BLOOM TIME: June to July

BLOOM DESCRIPTION: Yellow

SUN: Full sun

WATER: Medium

MAINTENANCE: Low

SUGGESTED USE: Annual, Herb, Naturalize

FLOWER: Showy

ATTRACTS: Butterflies

TOLERATE: Deer

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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
gbanewslatters@gmail.com

An Encounter With European Foulbrood

by **Peter Helfrich**, *Journeyman Beekeeper*

In May, I had my first real-world encounter with the brood disease European Foulbrood (EFB). The affected colony appeared normal during an inspection early that month. A few weeks later, however, something clearly was wrong. The adult population was declining rapidly. The brood pattern was spotty. Larvae were dead or dying prior to being capped. There were discolored larvae, larvae in twisted positions, and ones that appeared to have melted. In almost ten years of beekeeping, I'd never seen anything like it except in books – and, once, during the disease identification portion of the UGA Master Beekeeper Program's Journeyman Beekeeper's test. My colony had all the hallmarks of EFB.

I performed a field test using a Vita® Honeybee EFB Diagnostic Test Kit (available on Amazon or from beekeeping suppliers). I collected affected larvae and mixed them in the supplied vial. Then, I placed a few drops of the resulting mixture on the test stick. Two lines appeared, indicating a positive result.

EFB is a bacterial disease of honey bee brood. It's caused by the bacteria *Melissococcus plutonius*, and spread inadvertently by drifting bees or by beekeepers' tools and equipment. It's also thought to be a secondary infection associated with the presence of Varroa mites. Nurse bees can carry EFB without symptoms. When larvae eat contaminated brood food, the bacteria multiply in the gut, eventually out-competing the larvae for nutrients, resulting in larval death prior to capping.

According to Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University, "EFB can be incredibly damaging. We see a lot of colonies that completely don't make a honey crop that year, if they survive at all. It can lead to colony death. With EFB the colony can recover, but usually at a pretty high cost." (*PolliNation Podcast, Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University Extension Service, March 30, 2020*)

Writing in *American Bee Journal* (July 2021, pg 713), Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida, says, "We have been so focused on Varroa, the viruses, American Foulbrood, pesticides, etc., that we have forgotten how to diagnose EFB in our hives. Left unchecked, it can weaken colonies significantly."

EFB is highly contagious and easily can spread through apiaries. I immediately established dedicated tools for use on this colony only, and began disinfecting all my hive tools after use. Long a proponent of disposable nitrile gloves for inspections, I now began changing gloves between colonies, too. I fed the infected colony heavily to stimulate brood production. I also added a robbing screen to prevent other bees from raiding the sick colony should it become too weak to defend itself.

The addition of brood is also a recommended course of action. According to Keith Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, "There is evidence that donated brood and supplemental feeding can help a colony overcome the disease. The addition of young brood (open cells) provides young

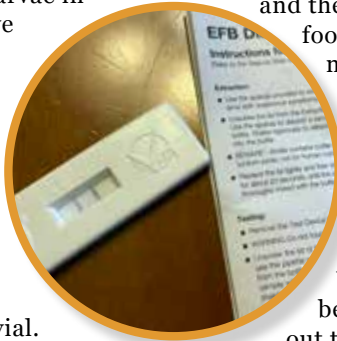
larvae that compete with infected larvae for attention from nurse bees so that sick ones die sooner and are eliminated. Likewise the addition of supplemental syrup stimulates brood production and competitive elimination of infected larvae."

However, it's believed EFB outbreaks can be brought on by a lack of sufficient nurse bees in the colony in the first place, and the resulting stress of larvae not receiving enough food. In such instances, open brood could make matters worse, while capped brood could quickly boost the nurse bee population. Over a couple of weeks, I added a mix of open and capped brood from healthy colonies.

Fortunately, EFB can be managed and colonies can recover, typically with the help of antibiotics. However, the FDA requires a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) to treat honey bee colonies with these medicines. I reached out to veterinarian David Martinez at Cumming Veterinary Clinic for assistance. David visited my apiary and together we inspected all of my colonies, after which he wrote a VFD for the antibiotic Terramycin (Oxytetracycline hydrochloride). I filled the prescription through Mann Lake and mixed the Terramycin up in extender patties, which I'm now feeding to all of my colonies.

David said the chances of my colony recovering would go up significantly if I also performed a shook swarm. To do this, I set up fresh equipment and new frames with foundation. After caging the queen, I shook the entire EFB colony out into the new equipment. I discarded all the old frames and comb. I retained the original hive bodies, but scorched the interiors thoroughly with a blowtorch.

It remains to be seen whether this colony will recover. Heading into August and dearth, it is a hard time for a sick, weak colony to recover and build back up prior to winter. I'm hopeful, with some fresh equipment and help from science, I've given them the tools they need to survive. 🍯



For more photos to help diagnose EFB, visit *BeeInformed Partnership*: <https://beeinformed.org/2013/04/05/european-foulbrood-efb-identification/>



2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

PREVIEW

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

GBA's first in-person meeting since Spring of 2020 is designed to offer a wide range of topics for beginner and seasoned beekeepers. This year we will also be teaming up with Young Harris College and The University of Georgia by offering the reviews and testing for Journeyman and Master Beekeeper levels of certification as normally offered during the Young Harris College-University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute. Those wishing to pursue a Welsh Honey Judge designation will find that path offered as well.

This fall we will feature guest speakers Dr. Jennifer Leavey, Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, Dr. Tom Seeley, Dr. Victoria Soroker and Dr. Jim Tew. Dr. Seeley, Dr. Soroker, and Dr. Lundgren will all be appearing via Zoom. The rest of our speakers will be there in person. Dr. Geoff Williams will be unable to attend due to a conflict. We'll see him in the future. Dr. Jennifer Leavey, who runs the bee program at Georgia Tech, will be

giving a keynote in his place.

Expanding our knowledge through national and international speakers is a wonderful opportunity for us at GBA, we will also keep our interests local with a lineup of familiar keynote speakers and breakout sessions with Jennifer Berry, Joe Conti, Brutz English, Jimmy Gatt, David Holloman, Barry Hart, Emily Heath, David Kirslis, Dan Long, Olivia Menard, and Bobby Thanepohn.

Our fall conference is proudly sponsored by the following vendors: Pigeon Mountain Trading Company, Blue Ridge Honey and Mountain Sweet Honey. We encourage our members to support these companies with your business both at the conference and in pre-conference orders. 

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER NOW

GBA Elections: You Could Help Shape GBA's Future!

Would you like to help shape the future of GBA? Would you like to be part of making other clubs in your area be the best they can be? Help new and current beekeepers get the most out of GBA? **Then we need you!!!!**

GBA is led and directed by a group of volunteers who work to support the local clubs throughout the state, to plan and host training meetings in the state every year, and so much more. We are actively seeking people who would like to be part of making a difference for beekeepers all over Georgia. **Is that you?** We will be electing three regional directors, the treasurer, and secretary. If you would like to help shape the future of GBA, please let us know that you would like to run for one of these positions. The information about each position can be found here: <http://gabeekeeping.com/Documents/bylaws.pdf> If you would like to run for one of these positions, please contact **Bobby Chaisson** at Bobby@gabeeremoval.com



Bobby Chaisson helps oversee the GBA election results in Fall 2019



2021 Fall Conference
SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

SPEAKER INTERVIEW

DR. JENNIFER LEAVEY

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Dr. Jennifer Leavey began keeping bees because Georgia Tech had a new interdisciplinary science building. She could choose between raising bees there or having a fish tank. As at most universities, certain approvals were required if one were dealing with vertebrate creatures like fish. There was no animal care protocol for bees, so Jennifer chose bees. Suddenly she found herself taking Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's short course and going to MABA's hive inspections to learn what this beekeeping stuff was all about. Bees brought her joy - "It has been wonderful," she said. "A fish tank might not have done the same!"

Bees at Georgia Tech have brought together so many people from so many walks of life - people who work in the community, people who work on campus, and lots and lots of students. Jennifer thinks there is so much interest in bees because of the draw of sustainability and pollination and maybe because bees are social insects. Now Jennifer has beehives in two locations - the Clough learning center and at the Kendeda building. Undergraduate students are heavily involved with the bees in both locations.


Leavey, the director of Georgia Tech's Urban Honey Bee Project, has recently been named the assistant dean in charge of faculty mentoring in the College of Sciences. She has had to reconfigure her time commitments to take this on, but gave up something else to be able to continue working on the honey bee project that she loves.

Along the way, she has been involved with a number of GBA members. She worked with Cindy Hodges as she was establishing the bee program. She has done a number of projects with Julia Mahood. An early one involved Courtney Waddley, a high school student who got a GBA Buzz Fund grant to study oxalic acid, neonics, and bee health with Julia as her mentor. The bees at Tech's bee lab were used for the study. Now Jennifer is working with Julia on Julia's drone-tagging project.

Jennifer has two kids at home - a son, Jacob, a senior in high school who plays saxophone in his school's marching band, and Ben, who is a high school freshman. Both have an interest in their mom's bee focus. Jacob is in IB Biology and is studying DNA in bees using tissue sampling from bee wings, feet and antennae. Ben wanted bees at home at

the beginning. But in their family, the bees are their mom's project, for the most part.

As a side gig, Jennifer Leavey plays guitar in TWO bands. One, a self-proclaimed science band, is **Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers** (it's a science thing). Two of their most popular numbers are about honey bees: **Fickle Finger of Fate** and **Hymenoptera**. *These are hilarious, educational and well worth a listen!*

As many of us who have attended lots of bee conferences know, there can be a huge gulf between scientists and the actual keeping of bees. Jennifer is a clear and careful communicator, bridging that gulf and making science seem like something we all can be a part of without speaking data analysis or getting doctoral degrees. At the fall conference, her keynote talk is "Every Beekeeper is a Scientist." 





2021 Fall Conference
SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

SPEAKER INTERVIEW

DR. TOM SEELEY

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Tom Seeley is such a warm and engaging human being that having a conversation with him on Zoom feels like we are sitting in a living room together talking. His life has been filled with bees since he found a swarm and brought it home in a box in the 11th grade. Now that he has retired from working at Cornell University, his most enjoyable activity with the bees is to go bee-lining. He has a little house in Maine and sometimes collects bees on one peninsula and then has to jump with his beehive over to another peninsula because the foragers have flown across water. Every time he is delighted to find that they still go home.

His family members, a wife and two grown daughters, are not beekeepers. Robin, his wife, is a marine biologist. She works in the “cold, wet world” of the rocky intertidal zone. His oldest daughter is a physiological psychologist and his youngest is a Middle East analyst working for the U.S. State Department. All work hard and are driven but none are beekeepers.

Early in their marriage, Robin went with Tom to Thailand to study bees there, but she missed the sea breezes of New England. His whole family moved with him to Berlin for half a year on a bee study. He also spent time in Germany alone, following his doctoral advisor who had moved there. Martin Lindauer was his “intellectual grandfather.” Seeley was able to go and spend time with him and learn. While there he wrote a biography of Lindauer. He was fascinated by how Lindauer studied the bees while Munich was in ruins from bombing during World War II. Seeley points out that the work he does today is built on the work of the people who went before him, like Lindauer.

In this time of COVID, Seeley says that he hasn’t changed his beekeeping much because it has always been something that he does alone. COVID has, however, changed his outreach. He hasn’t flown anywhere and he misses being able to talk directly to beekeepers. Zoom is OK but doesn’t really do the trick.

It’s clear that Tom Seeley has been in love with bees all of his life. He noted that in the bee colony, there is no fighting among the workers. No partisan politics there. Instead collective decision making is done peaceably. The heart of his interest in beekeeping is studying the colony and how its members work together. Many animals are like humans in their social interaction, but the bees are more

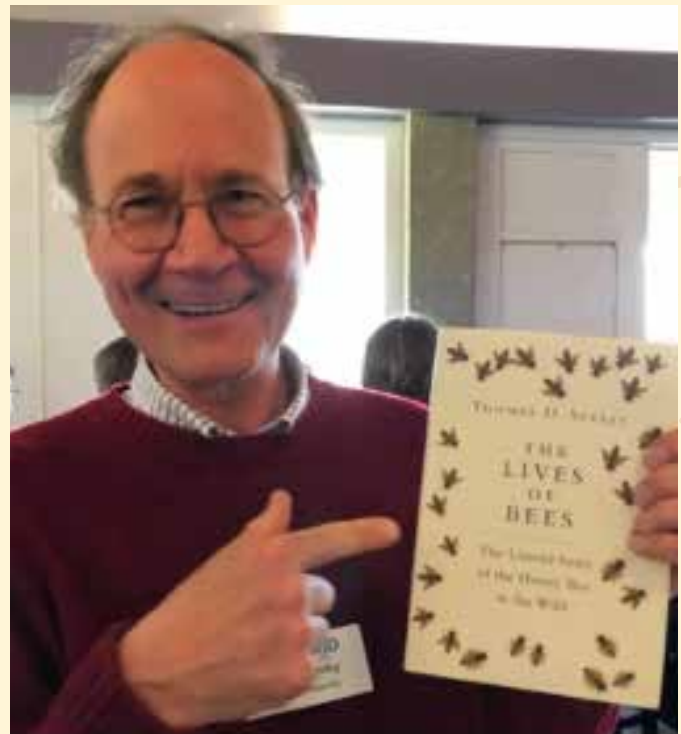
cooperative. He remains fascinated by how the colony works; how they make decisions; how they collect nectar; how they search for a new home?

His favorite way to be with the bees is in bee-lining. It’s not intrusive - more like birdwatching where he is observing but not interfering in any way. He likes being a bee-watcher more than being a beekeeper.

Many researchers devise their next study question from reading studies. Tom Seeley observes the bees and their interactions. He stays open to seeing the unexpected and getting curious about what he has seen. Observing colonies in the wild leads to questions. Those questions lead to research (and then to another book).

His best advice for a new beekeeper is to get a mentor. Find someone knowledgeable and work with them. “Beekeeping is a craft,” he said, “and the most effective way to learn is to find a good role model.”

Tom Seeley will be joining our conference by Zoom. You will be able to ask him questions at the end of each of his talks. **Here is a more detailed article about him** that was in *Bee Culture* six years ago. 🐝





2021 Fall Conference
SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

SPEAKER INTERVIEW

DR. VICTORIA SOROKER

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Dr. Victoria Soroker is a senior scientist and researcher in the department of entomology chemistry and nematology and a director of a research apiary at the Agricultural Research Organization, (A.R.O.), Volcani Center, Israel. She came to my attention when I heard her speak about how pheromones aid communication in the beehive on a podcast.

Vicky started beekeeping in 1989. She didn't know anything about bees but she was the teaching assistant for a bee biology class. She was the only one who wasn't allergic so she was assigned to this class - she didn't choose it. It was a happy accident because she fell in love with the bees.

Entranced by our favorite insect, she really wanted to study bees and managed to do it during her postdoctoral studies but as she got a permanent position there were all kinds of obstacles. She pursued her interest in bees "secretly." Finally, however, the Institute where she worked said there is a bee crisis because of colony losses and we need a bee researcher - would she be that person? Her husband knew how passionate she felt about the bees and really encouraged her to take this challenge. At that time she wasn't sure but she went to a conference in Sweden and saw a little bee charm in a store. She bought the bee charm, hung it around her neck and decided to take the bee researcher position. She never takes off the little bee.

At first her research was 50% bees and 50% other things. Now her research is 90% about bees. Mostly she focuses on how to rear bees in a sustainable manner and treat them using an IPM approach. She breeds bees from local stock for hygienic behavior and monitors them for varroa and virus load. She tries to teach beekeepers to establish monitoring methods for varroa. She is heavily involved with COLOSS. Her research also focuses on how the varroa mite detects the host as well as the impact of pesticide on bees.

In Israel, the beekeepers with whom she most works are the commercial beekeepers. They don't have the kind of organizations of local clubs and hobbyist beekeepers like we have in the US. She finds it frustrating that it is hard to do extension with local beekeepers. Her contacts with the commercial beekeepers focuses on encouraging them to practice IPM and not use Amitraz constantly as a

treatment for varroa.

Vicky is also a local hobby beekeeper with a few colonies. During COVID she would be called about swarms and couldn't take the swarms anywhere so they ended up with her. She keeps her bees using an IPM approach. Dr. Soroker has three grown children. Her son is very interested in the bees. Her oldest daughter has small children who like to help with the honey harvest.

She respects the bees very much. When people tell her that they are concerned about bees stinging, Vicky says "The bees are much less stinging than people!" She thinks the bees know much more about democracy than people do. While she is not very religious, observing the bees is enough to make her believe there is a God because the bee is such a perfect creation. She says "The way the bee is built and acts is how we as people should be and act."

Dr. Soroker will be joining us by Zoom. She will talk to us about bee pheromones and her second talk will be about the work she is doing in her lab, researching varroa. 🐝





2021 Fall Conference
SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

SPEAKER INTERVIEW

DR. JIM TEW

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Jim Tew has kept bees for 49 years! He muses that he should celebrate some kind of anniversary next year. He grew up in Dothan, Alabama, and always liked biology. He remembers an experiment when he was in elementary school when they grew corn in paper cups, and he learned how photosynthesis works because when the corn sprouted in the school closet (called the cloakroom in those days) it was white but the leaves turned green when the sprouted corn was put on the classroom windowsill.

He was the first in his family to go to college where he majored in his lifelong love, biology. His dad has a paint supply business but that business didn't appeal to Jim. He planned to study pesticides because that's how you could make a living with a biology major. At Auburn he fell into beekeeping accidentally. In those days there were no computers and you registered for college classes by standing in line to claim a class. Jim planned to sign up for something, anything, and then do "drop and add" later to get a class he wanted. The shortest class line was for a class in beekeeping. It goes without saying (because he'll tell the story at the Friday night dinner) that he in fact fell in love with bees and never dropped the class to add something different.

After college, he was drafted and thought he would be sent to Fort Rucker, which was right there in Dothan, where he grew up. He was sent to California instead. The Vietnam War was ongoing. Nixon sent Jim's group of draftees to Germany to replace troops there that had been sent to Vietnam. He and Vallie, his wife, had a rundown car and traveled all over Europe.

After his stint in the army, he used the GI bill to go to grad school. He did his masters thesis on pesticides but when he studied for his PhD, he was working with Dewey Caron at the University of Maryland. There he wanted to learn as much as he could about bees. His dissertation was on the use of styrofoam hives in cranberry bogs. Bees were a dime a dozen then and seen as expendable so they would drop queenless hives housed in styrofoam into the cranberry bogs to study ways to pollinate the cranberries. Unlike today, Jim had to build the styrofoam hives, glueing the parts together!

He was hired by Ohio State University, achieved tenure, and although he always thought he'd move back to Alabama, that never happened. Luckily he had the luxury of being the extension person both at Ohio State and at Auburn. He would go to Alabama two to three times a year. He remains active with beekeepers in Alabama as well as in Ohio.

Jim participates as the co-host of the "Kim and Jim Show,"

a wonderful interaction between two of the greats in today's beekeeping world. If you haven't heard it, the podcast is charming as well as full of information. He has really enjoyed doing this with Kim Flottum.

Jim has three daughters and six grandkids, none of whom join him in his beekeeping interests. People give his daughters all kinds of beekeeping stuff. One of his daughters says she is heiress to a beekeeping empire.

When asked how beekeeping has changed him as a person, Jim said, "Beekeeping makes me more patient." He says that he always wants the garden to produce the day after he plants, but in beekeeping he has to have patience, calmness, resoluteness. "Also a sense of mindfulness. I can watch them fly, listen to the hum, and interact without any hive opening. I get to admire another species living in the world that we are sharing. Other words that come up are placidness, interactivity." He loves "visiting their life" when he opens the hive or just watches from the outside.

Jim Tew encourages new beekeepers to think about the risk and cost of beekeeping today. He suggests that new beekeepers consider going in with a group or with someone else to have support. Today's new beekeeper can't just read a book or watch a video.

Dr. Jim Tew will be our speaker on Friday night at the dinner where he will tell us about his beekeeping journey "Beekeeping, not Bookkeeping!" Then on Saturday, he'll talk to us about queens in the beehive. I had so much fun talking to him that I can't wait for the Friday night dinner. 🍷





2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

PREVIEW

Editor's Note: **Dr. Jonathan Lundgren**, Director of ECDYSIS Foundation and CEO of Blue Dasher Farm, is also a keynote speaker, but we were unable to arrange an interview opportunity with him.



THE CONFERENCE CONNECTION

You remember what it was like... Each spring and fall those little bugs in a box brought us all together. Well, this September, *we're back!* Here is what a few of you said you missed most about being together and what you're looking forward to at this fall's Georgia Beekeepers Association conference. 🍯

The GBA Conference is what I do for my bees since they do so much for me. Learning from and meeting others is the pollen and the nectar for a beekeeper. As an attendee, I benefit from the planning that GBA does to assure quality and variety from speakers to breakouts at the conference.

For me, the GBA Conference is a swarm of beekeepers: eager to teach and learn, laugh and enjoy, and spend time together.

Thanks to all the vendors who travel and participate at the GBA Conference. I prefer hands-on when it comes to making my beekeeping supply purchases.

– **Mary Lacksen**,
Lake Country Beekeepers Association

I, for one, enjoy hearing from the quality researchers that are invited to speak at GBA. The knowledge gained from them is always fascinating, and the breakout speakers never disappoint with their practical tips and experiences with beekeeping.

– **Joe Conti**, Oglethorpe Bee Club

I always look forward to the GBA conferences because as secretary of the honey show, I get to see the beautiful fruits of everyone's labor, all the pretty honey and beeswax! Catching up with all my bee friends is just honey on the cake!

– **Katie Goodman**,
Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers

I am looking forward to hearing the keynote speakers as they provide the latest information and techniques that will help me become a better beekeeper. I look forward to being there!

– **Emily Heath**, The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

In addition to the excellent speakers and learning opportunities, attending the GBA conferences provides me a chance to talk with other beekeepers and get their views on maintaining healthy colonies.

– **David Logue**, Clark's Hill Beekeepers

GBA is a wonderful gathering for people who have the same interest. If you are interested in beekeeping, a novice, professional, anything in between, this is a great conference! Everyone is just genuinely pleasant to be around. Everyone is willing to chat about their experiences, give information to help you with your specific needs and you don't feel awkward asking. Something for everyone, you get to choose which break out sessions, which are many, all very interesting. There is lots of laughter and fun during the conference and the vendors are a great asset!

– **Margaret Hogsed**, Gwinnett Bee Club

The GBA conferences are an invaluable educational resource for beekeepers old and new. While I'm thankful for Zoom this past year, attending in person enriches the experience by providing opportunities to meet — and make important connections — with beekeepers around the state. Shared fellowship with like-minded individuals and a sense of community is what it's all about!

– **Deb DeWitt**, Tara Beekeepers



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Picture Perfect Top Bar Rest

by *Kathy Bourn*

The hive inspections that the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association offers to its members had to go virtual during the pandemic. In order to keep new beekeepers learning, MABA's Linda Tillman recorded the inspections as she performed them. However, taking pictures of bees and comb while holding frames/bars at the same time is difficult.

In a discussion at a bee club meeting, Linda commented that it was difficult to work a top bar hive without having a frame rest. After hearing Linda say that, Mike Conner and Dan Long began a secret project. They would make Linda the perfect frame rest that would work for her top bar hive. According to Mike, they contacted Andy Marcus for the dimensions of the top bar hive that Andy had made for Linda. The frame rest is wide enough for two frames/bars if needed and folds flat to store inside the gabled top. The blocks of wood at the bottom of the uprights form stops so the uprights don't open too wide. The uprights were shaped on a bandsaw to make brackets. The bottom is wider and heavier to add stability.

This secret gift was then packaged and mailed to Linda, both to her surprise and delight! It is indeed the perfect frame rest and allows the virtual or in-person hive inspectors to see eggs, larvae, and other interesting aspects of the frame up close and easily.

Since there isn't a standard for top bar hives, the dimensions will vary. Mike and Dan thought the general design might be improved with torque hinges to hold the uprights in case they were bumped. (If you watch Linda's video, you can see where she brushes against one and it almost closes.) 🍯



Hives Tour of ~~Homes~~

GBA members have some *impressive* apiaries that you are now invited to tour. We're taking you on this Tour of Hives to highlight the expertise, inventiveness and enjoyment that our beekeepers create. Please share an inspirational bee yard – yours or someone else's – with *Spilling the Honey* at gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Talassee Highlands Apiary

By Dan Long

I started beekeeping in 1996 but have only been serious about it since 2011. I maintain around 50 hives on the outskirts of Athens, Georgia. Most of the regular hives are in yards within a couple of miles of my home. By "regular" I mean traditional eight and 10-frame Langstroth hives used for nuc or honey production. In the home yard, I run up to 20 nucs and several regular hives for queen production. I use a Cloake Board and other methods. I also have a dozen mating nucs set on pipes we call the bird houses. Some of the most interesting hives are the collection I keep for education. They are a top bar hive, Apimaye, Warre, WBC, long Langstroth and Flow Hive. I've found the long Langstroth to be the perfect complement to the Cloake Board for swapping brood frames back and forth. It's really practical for many reasons. Still, my favorite is the

observation hive on my office window. It shows me the changing seasons and keeps me engaged in beekeeping even on rainy days or in winter. Most years, I take some hives up to the mountains for the sourwood flow. It's a lot of work but produces my favorite honey!

My bees are all mutts. I believe in high genetic diversity. Even though I produce my own bees now, I still buy a few queens from a different source each year. I strive to keep strong hives to avoid problems with hive beetles and I monitor and treat for Varroa mites regularly using oxalic acid and other products. I leave lots of honey on the hives but still don't shy away from feeding when needed. I sell bees and honey locally; by word of mouth. Most of my equipment was purchased, but I do build some of it. I have a small shop where I also design and build a few observation hives each year for others. 🐝





ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.

HAND-PAINTED BEE CASTE COOKIES

By Julia Mahood

COOKIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 4 sticks butter
- 450g sugar
- 1 t. Salt
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 t. Vanilla
- 800g flour
- 1 t. Baking powder
- ¼ C. Honey

COOKIE INSTRUCTIONS:

Cream butter, sugar and cream cheese.
Add egg yolks, and honey then vanilla.
Mix dry ingredients together and add to wet mixture.
Divide into three discs and chill until ready to bake.
Bake rolled and cut cookies on 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.
Decorate cooled cookies with fondant cut outs that have been hand painted with food coloring.
Put a dab of creamed honey under fondant.
Fill cookies with frosting.

FROSTING INGREDIENTS:

- 1 stick butter
- ½ C. honey
- 1 box XXX sugar
- 2 T. milk

FROSTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix all frosting ingredients until creamy.



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Appalachian Beekeepers Association

On July 10, the ABA club met with **Bill Jones**, from the Talking Rock Nature Preserve, at a **ribbon cutting ceremony** that officially opened the new pavilion and picnic tables. Many thanks to GBA for the grant money for the pavilion project.

Club members had a sweet send-off for **Bill and Cheryl Norris**, who have spent many hours of volunteering for the support of the club. Rainy weather did not stop the picnic festivities and new beginnings were discussed with members about the next steps for the club. Club president Vicki Champlin announced there is already interest in two homeschool groups using the pavilion to learn about honey bees. They would like to get information and hands-on experience with the teaching apiary. 🐝



Pictured are Anita Curry, HOGBA president with Bob Binnie and HOGBA members and visitors.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, July 20th at the Fair Bridge Inn in Perry. Our guest speaker was **Bob Binnie**, owner of Blue Ridge Honey Company. Bob's program was titled "A Year in the Bee Yard." He discussed what activities a beekeeper should be doing during each month of the year. Our next meeting will be August 17th and our speaker will be **Dr. Jamie Ellis** who will be discussing abiotic stressors. Follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.hogba.org. 🐝

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

After no in-person meetings since February 2020, the *Lake Country Beekeepers Association* monthly meetings are back! We met in-person in June and July. The attendance was terrific as over 40 experienced and new beekeepers gathered to learn from one another. Our speakers were: **Daniel Douglass**, Douglass Apicultural Services and **Keith Fielder**, UGA Extension Agent. The topics included hive

inspection, honey extraction and Varroa biology and treatments. The LCBA August meeting will host **Bruce Morgan**. He will speak about feeding bees and swarm prevention measures. Please come visit us. We meet Thursday, August 19th at 6:30 pm at the Sparta-Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad Street, Sparta, GA. You can also like us on Facebook. 🐝



Oglethorpe County Bee Club

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club had its second in-person meeting of 2021. **Kathy Bourn** of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association was our featured speaker. Her topic was "Going Long - Your Bees, Your Back, and Your Bottom Line," which compared the different types of horizontal hives that beekeepers presently use. She went into great detail about the Layens Hive, the long Langstroth hive, and the top bar hive. The talk was very informative, and included pictures of some "loony" long hives as well! 🐝

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Oak Park Community House 106 NW Railroad Ave., Oak Park, GA 30436	1st Monday, 6:00pm				beecolson@gmail.com	Emanuel
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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				aron_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				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6:00pm		Aug. 23		beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm				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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	1st Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm				Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Life Church Student Center Hwy 41 and Todd Road, Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	Via Zoom	Aug. 17	"Our Native Bees (and Why Beekeepers Should Care)," Peter Helfrich, chair Bee City USA-Decatur, GA	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm		Aug. 12	Black Jar Honey Contest & Trivia!	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm		Aug. 16	"Queen Rearing," Amy Weeks	tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	We will meet at Forester Farms and Apiary, 51 Forester drive, Rising Fawn, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm		Aug. 16	Derick Forester – We will examine top bar and langstroth hives, extraction operations, woodenware shop. etc.	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 W. Veterans Memorial 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.*



Hive Trap Hornets!

by *Kathy Bourn*

This is a lesson on being very careful when opening your hive traps. My Langstroth hives are set up in a circle on concrete hive stands. If I have an empty hive stand, I usually set a hive on it with foundationless frames in it and then I bait it. That way if a swarm comes by and wants to move in, great. It's also nice to have extra equipment close by.

I wanted to do a quick split, so I took the cover off one of the empty bait hives. At this point, I'm so glad I use screened inner covers. When I popped off the cover, I found European hornets had taken up residency. They pounded against that screen and *would have torn me up if they had had the chance!*

I didn't want to use any kind of insecticide in the hive, so I put the cover back on and closed the entrance. The hornets in the nest died after a few weeks.

The nest is a work of art and you really have to admire their construction abilities. *They just need to build in a different neighborhood!* 🍷





Spilling *The* Honey

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy fall to all of the Georgia Beekeepers Association! We look forward to our combination Fall 2021 GBA Conference. **This will take place in person** at the Ramsey Conference Center, September 23rd, 24th, and 25th in Gainesville, GA, **and via Zoom** for those who wish to see the keynote speakers by video. Please take a look at the program for the conference in this newsletter (see pages 6-9) for a chance to plan your days at the conference to maximize your experience. Also, be aware that some of the vendors/sponsors will allow for orders to be placed in advance for delivery to the conference allowing you to avoid shipping charges.

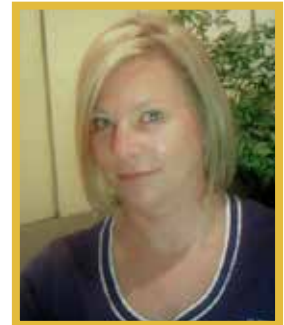
We have enjoyed reading about our great keynote speakers in the dedicated emails that **Linda Tillman** has prepared and sent out, and look forward to the ones remaining. We thank her for that. If you have missed them, look back through your email and review these great write-ups!

Our board meeting and business meeting features officer and committee reports as usual. This is your chance to know what has been happening and what is in store for GBA. I'm especially excited for everyone to know all about the programs and projects that our license plate proceeds have funded.

The featured speaker at the catered dinner is **Jim Tew**. After almost fifty years of beekeeping, Jim has many stories to tell and adventures to share.

We are having our traditional raffles and ice cream social. We had a terrific response from our sponsors: Blue Ridge Honey Company, Dadant, Mann Lake, Mountain Sweet Honey, Pigeon Mountain, Rossman and WRS Insurance. We look forward to visiting with our vendors in person and reconnecting with our fellow beekeepers in the same room! 🍯

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

COVID CARETAKING OF OUR BEEKEEPING COMMUNITY:
During the GBA Fall Conference we are requesting that everyone wear masks and practice social distancing in keeping with the CDC Guidelines.



2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER NOW

See Fall Conference Program on Pages 6-9

Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

What are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in around \$100,000 a year from license plate sales. When Gail Dean started working with the legislature to bring about this bill, the GBA officers and the legislative committee wanted to get these funds to support beekeeping education in Georgia.

The best way for that to happen is if local clubs ask for the money to support their projects!

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members.

- 1. APPLY to get your club speaker fees paid with license plate funds** - this is the most direct educational application of the funds
- 2. APPLY to start a beekeeping training program** - to support your club's Beekeeping 101 course or to support a junior beekeeping program.
- 3. APPLY to set up a club apiary** for the training of your members through ongoing hive inspections or to educate the public about bees.
- 4. APPLY to support the purchase of equipment to make your educational meetings run more smoothly** - a computer and projector for your club meetings, a Z-kit to allow you to have speakers from far away speak to your club using a GBA Zoom account.
- 5. APPLY to help your club put on any kind of program or project that will help to educate your members to be better beekeepers.**

AND APPLYING is EASY. Dan Long who has applied for many grants for his Eastern Piedmont club says, "Applying takes only about 15 minutes and is really easy."

The form is a Wufoo form that you fill out online. **Here is a link to the form.** The questions are simple and quick to answer. You do have to answer some important questions to support your request.



These are:

1. Who will benefit from this grant?
2. What are the educational benefits of this grant?
3. Provide an itemized list of the costs

Aside from your name and address, that is about it. We encourage your club to come up with projects that can be funded by the license plate and APPLY, APPLY, APPLY. There is no limit as to how often you can apply and the funds are there for GBA to use.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🍯

Useful links for local club presidents

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

Bee Activity At UGA

by *Kathy Bourn*

Editor's Note: UGA is a past recipient of funding through GBA's License Plate program. Some of the projects referenced below are supported by those funds. To learn more about how you can receive license plate funds for educational initiatives at your local bee club, see page 2.

The working relationship among the members of a honey bee colony is an amazing thing and something to emulate. That is what happens among many of the programs at the University of Georgia. *UGA Today* recently listed **Ten Ways UGA is Helping Honey Bees**.

The article by Sara Freeland points out that it is not just the UGA Honey Bee Lab that works to promote pollinator health at the campus.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has a three-week course that teaches students to help beekeepers deal with the many health issues honey bees face. The veterinary students also maintain hives on the roof of the veterinary hospital at UGA.

The 100-member Vet Bee Club taps into the expertise of GBA members by hearing from beekeepers like the ones at the Athens area Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association.

A big part of the university's advancement of honey bee health comes from the UGA Honey Bee Program at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Applied apiculture and pollination is the main focus in UGA's honey bee graduate program.

UGA research projects range from looking into using heat-sensitive cameras for monitoring bee activity to studying bee-friendly grasses.

Pollinator health is also advanced with the installation of plants for pollinators by the UGA State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and two UGA service learning courses which participated in the annual Campus Pollinator Census.

All of this helped UGA become a certified **Bee Campus USA**. 



UGA is working to train the next generation of veterinarians to care for bees, especially for disease and antimicrobial resistance. The course is taught by Jörg Mayer, professor of zoological medicine. To watch a short YouTube video about their work, click the still images above.

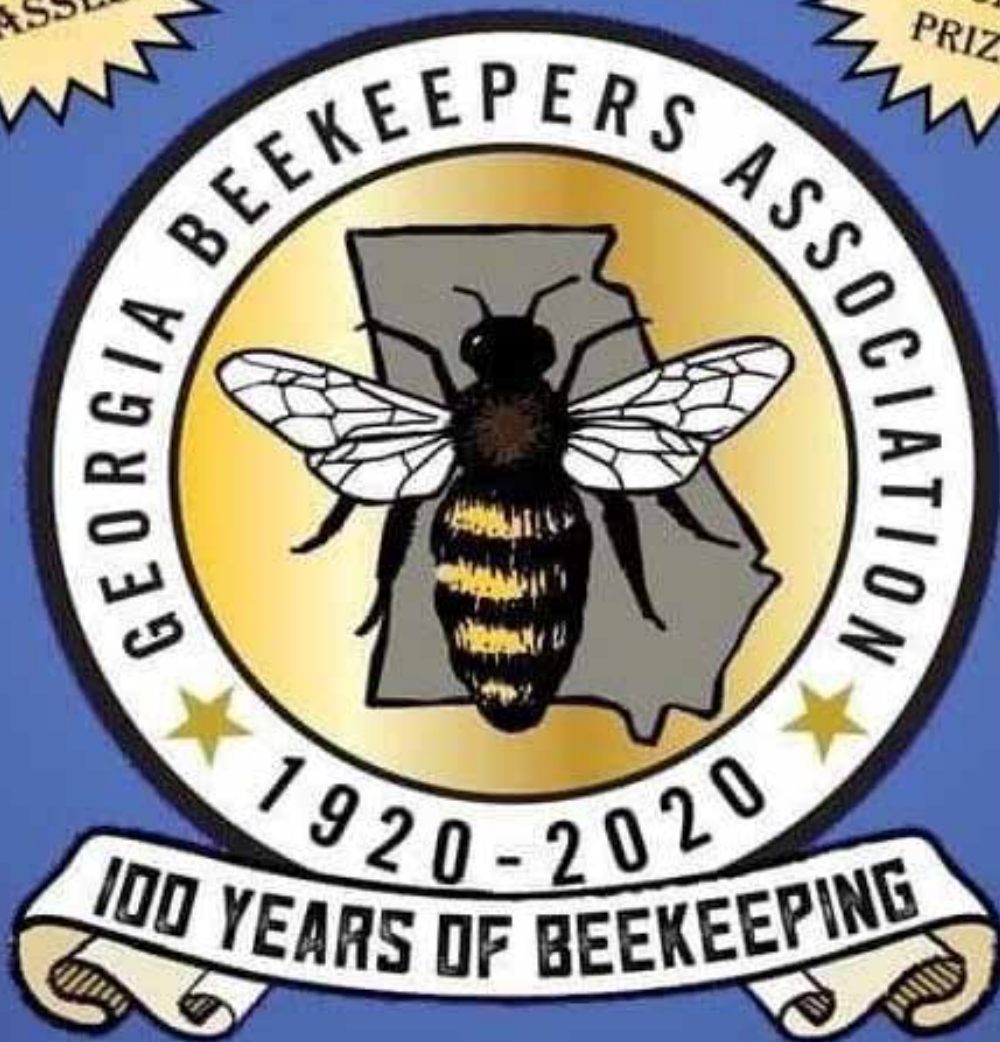
2021 Georgia Beekeepers Association

HONEY & BEESWAX

SHOW

27 SHOW
CLASSES

+\$4,500
IN CASH
PRIZES



Friday, Sept. 24th

GBA Fall Conference, Gainesville, GA

Complete Show Rules Located at:

www.gabeekeeping.com



2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

PREVIEW

NEW ZOOM VIEW-ONLY REGISTRATION CATEGORY ADDED

In response to the requests of our members, we now have a Zoom View-Only registration category for the GBA Fall Conference. If you are unable or uncomfortable attending the in-person meeting with the COVID numbers going up, GBA is offering a VIEW-ONLY Zoom option. If registering in this category, a Zoom link will be sent to the email that was used during registration.

The Zoom link will only allow the registrant to see and hear the keynote speakers on Zoom. This includes eight talks – two by Tom Seeley, two from Jonathan Lundgren, two from Victoria Soroker, one from Jim Tew, and one from Jennifer Leavey. The Zoom View-Only option also includes the Saturday morning GBA Business Meeting.



All registrants in person or on Zoom will be able to vote in the GBA elections for offices. A link for voting in the GBA officer election will be provided to you if you are registered for the Zoom option.

What is not included in this option:

- The ability to ask questions of the speakers during their question and answer time.
- No breakout talks.
- No recorded videos for later viewing of keynote speakers.
- No recorded videos for later viewing of breakout sessions.
- No participation in the business meeting such as voting or bringing up new business.
- The business meeting will be a view only option.

We invite you to register for the meeting either to attend in-person or to attend using this new registration, the Zoom View Only option. 🐝

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER NOW



Don't forget to submit your entries for the Fall Honey & Beeswax Show! The Honey show will be on Friday, September 24th, in Gainesville, Georgia, at the GBA Fall Conference. This will be a traditional, live honey show as part of our in-person Fall Conference. You can submit your exhibits in person, or you can mail them in ahead of time. *We hope to see you (and your exhibits) there!* 🐝

CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE RULES.

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2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

2021 OFFICERS

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Derrick Fowler

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Marilynn Parker

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Jennifer Berry



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:



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2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 · GAINESVILLE, GA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. JENNIFER LEAVEY

Dr. Jennifer Leavey is the director of the Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project. She also serves as the Assistant Dean for Faculty Development in the College of Sciences at Georgia Tech where she has been a biological sciences faculty member since 2005.



EVERY BEEKEEPER IS A SCIENTIST – *Beekeepers have a natural curiosity and are always experimenting. In this session, we will explore ways to save time and energy by using the tools of science to improve the health and productivity of your hives. We will discuss how to find and use research papers, how to design experiments, and how to contribute to or start “citizen” science projects. (Saturday, 1 pm)*

DR. JONATHAN LUNDGREN

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren is an agroecologist, Director of ECDYSIS Foundation, and CEO for Blue Dasher Farm. Lundgren’s research and education programs are helping applied science evolve in ways that foster the movement in regenerative agriculture.



WE MUST HEAL THE SOIL TO SAVE THE BEES
(Friday, 10 am)

UNPREDICTED RISKS OF PESTICIDES *(Friday, 4 pm)*

DR. THOMAS D. SEELEY

Dr. Thomas D. Seeley is a retired professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He continues to do research on the behavior and social life of honey bees. Tom is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees while a high school student when he caught a swarm.



THE BEE HIVE AS HONEY FACTORY – *This talk is about how a honey bee colony gathers and processes its nectar efficiently, despite tremendous day-to-day differences in nectar availability. An important part of the organization of honey production is the division of labor between nectar foragers and nectar storers. We will see how the bees keep the rates of nectar collecting and nectar processing in balance. (Friday, 1:15 pm)*

THE HONEY BEE COLONY AS AN INFORMATION CENTER – *A honey bee colony must solve the problem of keeping its foragers optimally allocated among flower patches. Those that are large and highly profitable should be allocated many foragers, while those that are small or less profitable should be allocated relatively few foragers. We will look at how a honey bee colony solves this highly dynamic problem. (Saturday, 4 pm)*

DR. VICTORIA SOROKER

Dr. Victoria Soroker is a specialist in chemical ecology of arthropods and serves as a scientific director of the research apiary at Department of Entomology’s Institute of Plant Protection, Agricultural Research Organization, The Volcani Center in Israel. For the last 13 years, she and her research team have been studying the interaction between the honey bee and its main pest, the Varroa mite.



HONEY BEE PHEROMONES – *Efficient communication system is prerequisite for any successful society. Honey bee colony is definitely an example for such a society with an excellent communication that is largely based on chemical signals –pheromones. The signals are produced by all colony members but differ in the content. In my presentation I will present a few key messages operating in honeybee colony, their content and role in colony function. (Friday, 9:15 am)*

VARROA: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? – *Varroa mite is considered the major problem of today’s apiculture almost world wide. What makes it so dangerous and how can we control it in sustainable manner are the problems that most of us apiculturists or “bee people” are worried about. In this talk I will present you with the research in this area that is conducted in my laboratory. (Saturday, 10 am)*

DR. JAMES E. TEW

Dr. James E. Tew is an Emeritus Faculty member at The Ohio State University and a beekeeper. He contributes articles to national beekeeping publications and has written four beekeeping books, a chapter in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, and was a co-author of *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*.



BEEKEEPING NOT BOOKKEEPING – *Dr. Tew will talk about how he accidentally discovered the world of beekeeping, and how it changed his life (Friday Dinner, 6:15 pm)*

IS IT REALLY THE QUEEN’S FAULT? – *The queen is frequently blamed for everything in the colony – both good and bad. Basic recommendations abound, but the challenge is in the details. When to replace, how to replace, how much to pay for what kind of queen are some questions that all beekeepers must answer. It’s not easy. (Saturday, 1:45 pm)*

FOR BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, SEE PAGE 9.



GBA ELECTION VOTING: Use your phone and the election QR code to link to the GBA election poll. For those without a smart phone, or who prefer to vote via laptop, there will be computer available on Friday morning at the registration table until 11 am.



RAFFLE: Buy your raffle tickets throughout the conference at the registration table. Raffle drawing will be held on Saturday at 4:45 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPT 23RD

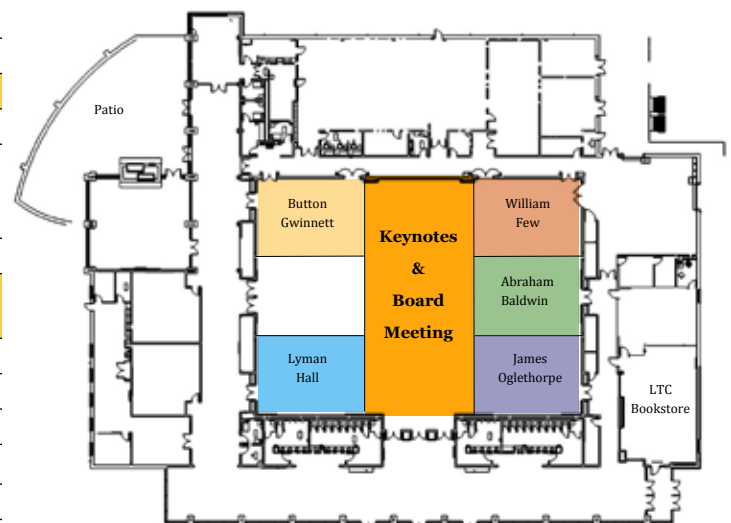
9:00-4:00	Welsh Honey Judge training (Ramsey Conference Center, Lyman Hall)
9:00-12:00	Journeyman and Master lectures (Lanier Technical College Economic Development Center, Lanier Way and Oakwood Lane, Room 5164 and 5165)
1:30-4:00	Journeyman and Master testing and audits (Lanier Technical College Economic Development Center, Lanier Way and Oakwood Lane, Room 5164 and 5165)
3-4:30	Honey Show entries accepted SEE COMPLETE RULES
4:30-6:00	GBA Board Meeting
6:00	🍴 Dinner on your own. (O'Charlies discount for GBA members)

FRIDAY, SEPT 24TH

7:15-9:00	Honey Show entries accepted
7:45	Doors open, Registration
8:00	🗳️ GBA Election voting opens
9:00	Opening remarks – Gina Gallucci , GBA president
9:15	KEYNOTE: Honey Bee Pheromones – Dr. Victoria Soroker
10:00	KEYNOTE: We Must Heal The Soil To Save The Bees – Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
10:45	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
11:00	🗳️ Voting by computer at the registration table closes
11:15	BREAKOUT SESSIONS A*
	<i>Results from Current Oxalic acid Research – Jennifer Berry</i> (Location: William Few Room)
	<i>How I Became A Commercial Beekeeper – Barry Hart</i> (Location: James Oglethorpe Room)
	<i>Beekeeping Gadgets for the Hobbyist – Emily Heath</i> (Location: Button Gwinnett Room)
	<i>Observations of Heat Treatment for Varroa Control – David Hollomon and David Kirsliis</i> (Location: Abraham Baldwin Room)
	<i>Observation Hives – Dan Long (Location: Lyman Hall)</i>
	<i>Bee Yard Basics: How to do a Hive Inspection – Bobby Chaisson</i> (Location: Outdoors)
12:00	🍴 Lunch
1:00	Announcements & Door Prizes
1:15	KEYNOTE: The Bee Hive as a Honey Factory – Dr. Tom Seeley
2:00	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
2:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS B (Repeat of Breakout A above, except: Bobby Chaisson's outdoors <i>Bee Yard Basics</i> program will be <i>How to Find and Mark Queens</i>)
3:30	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
4:00	KEYNOTE: Unpredicted Risks of Pesticides – Dr. Jonathan Lundgren
4:30	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
5:00	Honey show open for viewing
5:30	Beer & Wine
6:00	🍴 Dinner (You must register and pay for the dinner in advance.)
6:15	Dinner Speaker: <i>Beekeeping not Bookkeeping – Dr. Jim Tew</i>
6:45	Journeyman and Master testing awarded, Beekeeper of the Year and Honey Show awards

SATURDAY, SEPT 25TH

7:45	President's Breakfast
8:30	🗳️ Vote in GBA elections and/or visit our vendors
8:45	Announcements & Door Prizes
9:00	GBA Business Meeting / Buzz Fund
10:00	KEYNOTE: Varroa: What Can We Do About It? – Dr. Victoria Soroker
10:45	Announcements & Door Prizes
11:00	Visit our vendors
11:15	BREAKOUT SESSIONS C*
	<i>Working with Beeswax – Brutz English</i> (Location: William Few Room)
	<i>Who-sa-zygous-whatzis? – Olivia Menard</i> (Location: James Oglethorpe Room)
	<i>A Bee Welcome – Bobby Colson</i> (Location: Button Gwinnett Room)
	<i>How to Make Creamed Honey – Bobby Thanephon</i> (Location: Abraham Baldwin Room)
	<i>High Quality Nucs – Jimmy Gatt (Location: Lyman Hall)</i>
	<i>Bee Yard Basics: How to do a Hive Inspection – Bobby Chaisson</i> (Location: Outdoors)
12:00	🍴 Lunch
12:45	Announcement of GBA Election Results
1:00	KEYNOTE: Every Beekeeper is a Scientist – Dr. Jennifer Leavey
1:45	KEYNOTE: Is It Really The Queen's Fault? – Dr. Jim Tew
2:30	Final Vendor Break
2:45	Ice Cream and cookies from local clubs
3:00	BREAKOUT SESSIONS D (Repeat of Breakout C above, except: Bobby Chaisson's outdoors <i>Bee Yard Basics</i> program will be <i>How to Find and Mark Queens</i>)
3:45	Break
4:00	KEYNOTE: The Honey Bee Colony as an Information Center – Dr. Tom Seeley
4:45	🎟️ Raffle drawings
5:00	Conference ends





ROOM	FRIDAY SESSIONS (A & B)	SATURDAY SESSIONS (C & D)
WILLIAM FEW	<p>RESULTS FROM CURRENT OXALIC ACID RESEARCH – Oxalic acid, found in some of our favorite veggies, front yards and hardware stores, is used to reduce populations of Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies. We will discuss the results of several oxalic acid research projects that have just been completed at UGA and other research labs here in the US and abroad.</p>  <p>Jennifer Berry has been conducting research and apicultural extension duties at the UGA Honey Bee Lab for 21 years. Her main objective has been to educate beekeepers on how to keep colonies alive. This fall, she will be teaching a beekeeping course on the UGA campus, the first in 19 years.</p>	<p>WORKING WITH BEESWAX – How to get the best quality, best looking beeswax from your hives to the honey show. Methods and techniques on rendering, cleaning, handling, and salvaging beeswax. Tips on what honey show judges are looking for (both good and bad), and how to get your beeswax to stand out at the honey show!</p>  <p>Brut English is a UGA Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. He is the Director for the Welsh Honey Judge training program at the Young-Harris Beekeeping Institute. He is the Chairman of the GBA Honey Show Committee, and he was the GBA's 2017 Beekeeper of the Year.</p>
JAMES OGLETHORPE	<p>HOW I BECAME A COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPER – Commercial beekeeper Barry Hart will present how he got into bees and all the changes he's seen in his 37 years. He will discuss a typical year of beekeeping for him.</p>  <p>Barry Hart has been a beekeeper for 37 years. He runs around 3,600 hives. He does pollination and honey production. He also makes nucs to sell in the spring. Barry's home base is Fargo, Georgia and he moves bees to California, Florida, and Michigan.</p>	<p>WHO-SA-ZYGOUS-WHAT-SIS? – Join Olivia Menard for a memorable review of honey bee biology. Why do honey bees make honey? How do bees regulate nest temperature? What, exactly, do bees "do" with all those different glands? We will explore these questions and more in this class.</p>  <p>Olivia Menard is a certified beekeeper in Lawrenceville, GA, and the beekeeper for Hurricane Hives at Monroe Area High School. An aerospace engineer by trade, Olivia began keeping bees to help her garden and practice mindfulness. Today she shares the craft of beekeeping with others through mentoring and program development.</p>
BUTTON GWINNETT	<p>BEEKEEPING GADGETS FOR THE HOBBYIST – Would you like to know about ventilation boxes, sun/rain visors, and Russian scions; a method to prevent ants which has been successful for Emily? Unless you have only one hive, it can be daunting to try and remember what is going on in each hive. Emily will tell you about an app and red/green brick method that she uses.</p>  <p>Emily Heath has been a beekeeper since 2015. She is a Master Gardener, extension volunteer, and a certified beekeeper from UGA. Emily lives in Perry, but is originally from Alabama. She enjoys volunteering at her church and local schools as well as educating the public about bees and gardening.</p>	<p>A BEE WELCOME – Bobby's talk will be oriented to new beekeepers and will include some important tips and tricks.</p>  <p>Bobby Colson is a member of CEBA at Oatland Island and teaches a class each year. He assisted in founding the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers and served as their president. He also assisted with founding the Altamaha Beekeepers and served as president of that club as well until last year. He taught a beekeeping class at Georgia Southern and will teach another this fall.</p>
ABRAHAM BALDWIN	<p>OUR OBSERVATIONS OF HEAT TREATMENT FOR VARROA CONTROL – This breakout will cover our experiences with treating varroa using heat and understanding the relationship between temperature and honey bees.</p>  <p>David Hollomon began his beekeeping adventure five years ago. Since then, he has become a certified beekeeper and he is currently studying for the Journeyman exam. He is a member of the Tricounty Club and has assisted Julia Mahood as a volunteer in the prison program for the past three years.</p>  <p>David Kirsliis is a third year beekeeper in Athens, Georgia, where he manages 12 hives and practices thermal treatment methods for Varroa.</p>	<p>MAKING CREAMED HONEY – Making creamed honey doesn't require any tools or equipment that you likely don't already have. and the Dyce method certainly isn't the only way to achieve a smooth, spreadable product your clients will love.</p>  <p>Bobby Thanepohn is the "Bobbee" half of Bobbee Macbee's and vice president of the Etowah River Beekeepers. Bobbee MacBee's has taken several top honors at GBA honey shows.</p>
LYMAN HALL	<p>OBSERVATION HIVES – The opportunity to watch honey bees up close for an extended period of time is both entertaining and educational. Whether you're doing serious research or just having fun, observation hives are a great addition to your beekeeping equipment. Learn how to build, maintain and use several different types of them for fun, teaching and profit.</p>  <p>Dan Long is a beekeeper living in Athens, Georgia who enjoys the challenges and rewards associated with the pursuit. He maintains dozens of colonies in many different types of hives. He teaches beekeeping to various groups and individuals locally and at the state level.</p>	<p>HIGH-QUALITY NUCS – What should you be looking for when you buy a nuc? How do bee-sellers create nucs? In this presentation, we will discuss what makes a high quality nuc and how you can be an informed buyer.</p>  <p>Jimmy Gatt is a Journeyman beekeeper and Vice President of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. He enjoys public speaking to beekeeping and gardening groups and volunteering to plant high-value nectar plants for pollinators. He works as a software developer and lives in Marietta, GA.</p>
OUTSIDE	<p>BEE YARD BASICS: HOW TO DO A HIVE INSPECTION – As new beekeepers, it is always difficult to know exactly what to be looking for during a hive inspection. Bobby will share with you tips he has picked up along the way that will help you have a more successful hive inspection. This class deals with live colonies. You must bring your veil to wear during this class. (NOTE: This program will be offered during the morning sessions – A and C – on both days.)</p>  <p>Bobby Chaisson is a full time beekeeper working with Georgia Bee Removal. Bobby has had over 13 years experience working with bees all over the southeast. He will share with you tips and tricks he has picked up over the years from many other beekeepers.</p>	<p>BEE YARD BASICS: HOW TO FIND & MARK QUEENS – A common problem for new beekeepers is they can never find their queen. Bobby will share with you some tips to make it easier to locate the queen in your colony and he'll show you how to catch and mark her easily. This class deals with live colonies. You must bring your veil to wear during this class. (NOTE: This program will be offered during the afternoon sessions – B and D – on both days.)</p>  <p>Bobby Chaisson is a full time beekeeper working with Georgia Bee Removal. Bobby has had over 13 years experience working with bees all over the southeast. He will share with you tips and tricks he has picked up over the years from many other beekeepers.</p>

Dan Long

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Generosity of spirit is a key characteristic of most outstanding volunteers, and this is definitely true of Dan Long. Dan is expansive in his thinking about how to help his fellow beekeepers and generous in every way.

Dan started keeping bees in Pennsylvania in 1996 on a property where he was homesteading with a huge garden, chickens and fruit trees. Keeping bees seemed like a good thing to do. But he really got serious about bees in 2011 in Georgia. His wife Becky is sometimes “on the other side of the hive carrier,” and she loves that Dan keeps bees. While Dan has six children, two are still at home. Sophia, now 17, was an avid beekeeper “for about three weeks.” His son Ezra who is 12 used to be more involved, but now isn’t so much. But they all like it that Dad is a beekeeper.

Now Dan has fifty hives, more or less. He has a yard at home and three outyards that are each a mile or so in three different directions. He also manages the extension hives at the far west of his county and he takes care of the hives at the Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens.

Dan is a tinkerer and has built all kinds of beekeeping gadgets. Some of his projects have included a feeder, a gizmo for queen catching, mating nucs, whole hives, five-frame nucs, a long langstroth, and a bee-lining box. He really likes building observation hives – not everybody does that. The favorite piece of equipment he has built is an observation hive for the Gwinnett library because of the many people who will be exposed to bees and beekeeping as a result. The children who visit the library love Dan’s observation hive and can be seen almost daily,
(continued on next page)



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)
entranced by the bees.

For Dan, bees bring everything together. He likes the challenge of “beekeeping always being a learning curve.” He likes the livestock management aspect of beekeeping, not to mention that bees create a product that he can share. He sells his honey purely by word of mouth and at a holiday market.

Dan has worked very hard in several Georgia bee clubs. He’s been on the board of the Oglethorpe beekeepers for years and is currently the ongoing president of Eastern Piedmont. He came back to Eastern Piedmont to help bring new energy to the club. Several people had kept the club going, but they were in need of Dan’s spirit to build the club up in numbers. Since Dan became active in Eastern Piedmont, he has given his all and built the club into a thriving organization.

Although Dan says he is “bad at delegating,” he is great at generating enthusiasm among his club members. When his club built a float for the annual community holiday parade, he had volunteers helping with every aspect and two people dressed up as bees to lead the parade.

When asked how he gets such enthusiastic club member participation, Dan said, “It’s all about building excitement.” For the parade float building project, he showed photos of himself and his wife, Becky, working on a similar project. Before he knew it, he had eight different people wanting to help build the float. He also said that he is “not easily embarrassed” so he doesn’t think anything about putting on Virginia Webb’s honey bee suit and dancing around to build enthusiasm! He also brought that excitement to Athens when he had the pollinator movie shown there. He convinced Lewis Bartlett to introduce the movie, and they had a honey tasting for the movie watchers.

Dan does see his growing edge as working on delegating. He will be president of his club another time, but he wants to see others step up. At this point, Dan gets the speakers, runs the Facebook page, makes the announcements, and coordinates the club meeting space. He needs to find and delegate people to take over these jobs.

One thing Dan has done really well is to apply for license plate grants. That money exists to help local clubs with educational purposes. And Dan applies for grants to help educate his club members. He has gotten plate money to pay for most of his recent club speakers. He got a grant to

purchase kid-sized bee suits and gloves to use for training purposes. He applied for a license plate grant to fund a full beekeeping program at his county extension. The extension apiary provides the opportunity for teaching beekeeping to new beekeepers and the community. And he will keep applying as more ideas come up for him and his club.

Dan is a frequent speaker at GBA clubs where he readily shares his bee knowledge. Early in his career he began speaking in the horticulture field

which is his “real job.” But now he gives lots of bee talks as well. Many of you have probably heard him speak on bee-lining or observation hives. He also has spoken at GBA every time he is asked. That type of energy and investment is why Dan is our volunteer of the month in September.

When asked about what he gets from volunteering, Dan

said, “I have always thought it is important to give back. And where would GBA be without volunteers?” When he talked about all the things he builds, Dan quoted the *Robots* movie, “See a need, fill a need.” That summarizes how Dan approaches volunteering as well. We are so lucky to have Dan Long in GBA. 🐝



Dan with one of his observation hives – a favorite type of his many beekeeping related projects.

Snakes in the Beeyard

by *Mickey Anderson*

In 1972, while working as a student in the UGA bee yard at the Agronomy Farm, I caught a five-foot black snake. I took it to the bee lab in the Biological Sciences Building and put it in a drawer in one of the lab cabinets. I showed it to Diane Hurd, another beekeeping student, and she said that Dr. Dietz was not going to like it (truly an understatement). When I later showed it to Dr. Dietz, he screamed at the top of his lungs, “get that blank snake out of here and don’t ever bring anything like that back in here – this is a bee lab, NOT a herpetology lab.”

In 1976, while working for the Williams Bee Company, in their commercial bee yards close to Vero Beach, FL., I encountered a seven-foot coachwhip snake. It was crawling next to an irrigation canal used to irrigate the orange groves where we had our bees for orange blossom honey. The snake was beautifully marked, and I was truly impressed at how fast it was as it raced through the brush next to our colonies.

Later that year, we had our colonies in south Georgia for the gallberry flow. A newbie, that I will call Jim, went with me one day to work the bees. At the end of the day we were returning when I slammed on the brakes. A four and a half foot canebrake rattlesnake was crossing the dirt road. I had never eaten rattlesnake and I saw this as my big opportunity to cross this off of my bucket list. We had a bunch of bottom boards in back of the truck, and we started throwing them at the rattlesnake to kill it. By the time we were finished we had about 30 bottom boards all over the road. Fortunately, no one else drove by while we were in the initial stages of preparing our supper. I cooked it in my travel trailer and we ate our delicacy. It tasted like tough catfish.

In 1977, while working for Rossman’s Apiaries, to get to one of the beeyards, we drove by a

small store. We stopped for refreshments and the store owner took me outside around back and showed me some old recycled soft drink coolers. He removed the top and I looked down and saw about 15 hissing, rattling rattlesnakes. He and others collected them all year and sold them at the annual rattlesnake round-up for about \$10 a foot.

Later that year, I was working with a crew to clean up beeyards in the fall. I had to relieve myself, so I went over to some waist high grass and brush. When finished, I started back, then froze in my tracks. I heard the unmistakable and very characteristic sound of a rattlesnake rattle. I was close enough to the snake to upset it, and the rattlesnake was most likely close enough to strike me. But I could not see it and didn’t know exactly where it was. I called out to my friend Hotrod and he said “Don’t move, I know exactly what to do.” He threw sticks and rocks in a 2 foot circle around me, dropping them about every six inches apart. This exercise either hit the rattlesnake or came close enough to cause it to crawl away. After I didn’t hear the rattling, I jumped over in the cleared out area of the beeyard. Hotrod said, “The next time you have to go – do it over there, pointing to a cleared out area – nobody will look and nobody cares”.

About 10 years ago, I was gathering some wheat straw in a barn next to my current beeyard. As I was uncovering the straw, I felt the back of my hand hit something. I jerked back when I saw that I uncovered a two foot copperhead. Since it was a cool October day, the snake wasn’t very active and did not strike. I killed this snake and preserved it in alcohol. I took it to the lab where I worked and used this specimen to show others the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. I retired about five years ago, and this copperhead is still there for educational purposes.

Realistically, in over 50 years of beekeeping, I have encountered very few snakes in the beeyard. But when I have, they were usually very memorable experiences. 🐍



Mickey Anderson with a three foot king snake in his current beeyard. The king snake was released after the photo shoot.

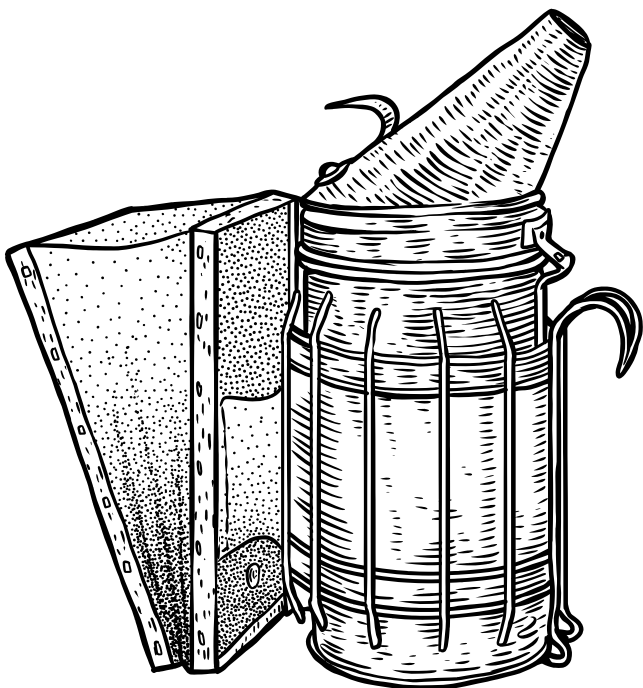


THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Building A Better Entrance Disc

by *Ryun Forsman*

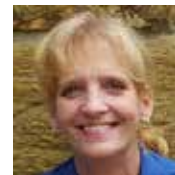
Do you use 1" holes for your swarm traps, nucs or any other boxes? I've designed and 3-D printed an entrance disc with some extended edges on it. The theory is that it will give the bees more space to hang out in the front and defend their new hive, and also to block rain from entering the box.

I was told by someone that they think it may encourage SHB infestations, but then others have said they don't agree. I created some two-frame split boxes that I used successfully this summer with these discs. I've also been using them on my swarm traps and walk-away split boxes – *they are working perfectly!* 🐝



*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
gbanewslatters@gmail.com

Keeping Their COOL

By *Kathy Bourn*

No one has to tell you that summer beekeeping in Georgia is *hot* – for both the beekeeper and the bees. We humans have the luxury of being able to sweat to help keep our bodies cool, and air-conditioning to help keep our dwellings comfortable. Honey bees manage to control the temperature in their hive in other ways. This is crucial, not only for the bees themselves, but also to maintain the integrity of the comb and to keep a steady temperature range for the brood.

Many times beekeepers think that their bees are getting ready to swarm when they see a bunch of them hanging out at the hive entrance. This is known as bearding, but it is just one of several strategies the bees use to keep cool. Hundreds or thousands of bees will leave the interior of the hive and hang out on the front porch to reduce the heat inside the hive. Some will also fan their wings at the entrance to get more air flowing into the hive.

Water is part of this cooling system, too. Some bees will collect water and bring it back to the hive in their stomachs. They then use it like an evaporative cooler, also known as a swamp cooler, by vomiting the water out throughout the interior of the hive. The air flow over the water reduces the temperature in the hive, much like a nice breeze over our sweaty skin.

A study done by Tufts University showed that the honey bee superorganism acts much like a mammal's cardiovascular system. When there is localized heat in the hive, especially around the brood, honey bees can press themselves against the brood and absorb some of the heat. It's called heat shielding. They then transfer the heat to a cooler part of the hive.

Now if only someone would come up with an air-conditioned bee suit for the beekeeper! 🐝





ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.

HERBAL HONEY OINTMENT/SALVE

By Willa Beth Smith

This Herbal Honey Ointment/Salve can be used to treat:

- 1st or 2nd degree burns
- Rashes
- Minor wounds
- Sunburns
- Chapped skin and lips

HERBS USED AND WHY:

- **Dried Comfrey (leaves or roots)** – It is demulcent, emollient and anti-inflammatory. Plus, it encourages cell regeneration, mending bruises, sprains, burns and abrasions.
- **Dried Calendula (flowers/petals)** – It is antibacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory promoting the healing of wounds, abrasions and burns.
- **Organic Olive Oil** – contains vitamins A, D, E, and K; nourishing.
- **Raw Honey** – It is an antibacterial agent; nourishing.

RECIPE: First prepare oil infusions of comfrey and calendula either cold or hot or using a double boiler method (Rosemary Galdstar). Strain herbs out of oil. Now, it is ready for our recipe.

- ½ cup Calendula infused oil
- ½ cup Comfrey infused oil
- 2 oz beeswax
- 4 oz raw honey

Using a double boiler, melt beeswax into oil slowly. Do not overheat.

Allow to cool to about 90 degrees then add the honey and emulsify/blend rapidly.

Pour into containers and allow to set for 24 hours before putting the lids on. Add lid and label.

This will keep for up to a year in a cool, dry place.

TO USE: Apply directly to area and bandage as normal.



Please...

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

We need your info!



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Local Club Meeting Plans for Upcoming Month" from WUFO. The form includes several sections:

- Click Here:** A button to access the form.
- State of your Meeting/Meeting:** A dropdown menu for selecting a state.
- Time of your next meeting:** Fields for MM, DD, YYYY, AM/PM, and a time selection.
- Our meeting will be held place:** Radio buttons for "Yes" and "No".
- Speaker Program for Upcoming Meeting:** A text area for providing speaker and program details.
- Speaker's Name or website:** A text area for the speaker's information.
- By default, we send this form to the club president. A close contact may also get this when the stage of your club program? Please email that email address below:** A text area for an email address.
- Please have a club president or close meeting up in the next few months, please get the club president or the member to fill out below:** A text area for a contact person.
- Submit:** A button at the bottom right.

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

On Tuesday, August 17, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers hosted **Dr. Jamie Ellis**, via live Zoom. He presented a program on "Abiotic Stressors in the Hive." Dr. Ellis is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology and Nematology Department at the University of Florida and has done extensive research work all over the world. He also has writes his monthly "The Classroom" section in *American Bee Journal* magazine and hosts the podcast *Two Bees in a Pod*. This was a hybrid meeting (both in person and on Zoom, using the GBA Zoom account). It was a great opportunity for all to interact with Dr. Ellis and gain some knowledge about a variety of colony stressors. The next HOGBA meeting will be 7:00 pm Tuesday, September 21 at the Fair Bridge Inn Express in Perry. Check out our website at www.HOGBA.org. 🍯



Dr. Jamie Ellis

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

The Lake Country Beekeepers Association held their monthly in-person meeting in August. Many first year beekeepers joined us and we welcomed our speaker, **Bruce Morgan of Morgan Apiaries**. Bruce shared props and experience on how to feed our bees and insights on swarm prevention. A tip for preventing swarms: Pay close attention to your hive and cut out queen cells. Check every frame every seven days during the nectar flow. Remember we can have a fall nectar flow, too.



On Saturday, August 21st **National Honey Bee Day** was celebrated at the Sparta-Hancock County Library. LCBA President **Tim Bramlett** gave visitors an overview of hives, frames, honey, beekeeping tools, and honey extraction equipment. In addition, **Keith Fielder**, UGA Extension, offered a talk on honey bee biology. Visitors also looked at the live bees in the library's observation hive. The library staff and Friends Group provided an assortment of pollinator plants, seeds, honey dippers, and honey samples, along with colorful antennae. The observation hive has sparked a local interest in pollinators and gardening. The library continues to expand its collection of children and adult books on beekeeping. National

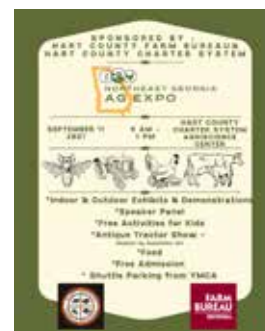
Honey Bee Day was an opportunity for our club to interact with our community about honey bees.

The LCBA September meeting will host, **Dr. Keith Delaplane** from the UGA Bee Lab. He will speak on the honey bee races. Plus, this will be our annual Honey Show. There will be a black jar contest, along with competition in light, amber and dark categories, and prize money to the top winners. You must be a LCBA member to enter. We will meet Thursday, September 16th at 6:30 pm and **NOTE:** The September meeting will take place at the Eatonton-Putnam County Extension, 663 Godfrey Road, Eatonton, GA. 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

The Hart County Charter School System presents the **Northeast Georgia Ag Expo** on September 11th. The members of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association will be there to demonstrate the wonders of our favorite livestock – the honey bee! LHBA members will show an observation hive, a video presentation on how to inspect a bee hive and educate the attendees on everything about the honey bee.

The Ag Expo is held from 9am to 1pm at the Hart Co. School System AgriScience Center (1575-1899 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA 30643). 🍯



West Georgia Beekeepers Association

The West Georgia Beekeepers Association will meet on Monday, September 27, 2021 when our guest speaker will be **Dan Scales**. Dan's topic will be "Preparing your hives for winter." There will be a question and answer session following the program. We meet every 4th 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. *Hope to see you there!* 🍯

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6:00pm		Sept. 13	"Prepping For Winter," Mary Lackson	gmhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Toombs
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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		Sept. 16	Evaluating Mite Control (Zoom) – Come with Your Mite Test Results AND TBD **September Saturday LIVE** – Fall Hive Evaluation (Live) YouTube: Fall Hive Evaluation (Recorded Live Hands-On)	aron_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		Sept. 14	"Winter Prep," Harold Lanier	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6:00pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm				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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	2nd Monday, 7:00pm		Sept. 13	"Our Native Bees (and Why Beekeepers Should Care)," Peter Helfrich, chair Bee City USA-Decatur, GA	EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm				Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Fair Bridge Inn Express Valley Drive Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm		Sept. 21	Swap Meet	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd., McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				hartfieldmonty@gmail.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Eatonton-Putnam County Extension, 663 Godfrey Road, Eatonton, GA	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm		Sept. 16	"Honey Bee Races," Dr. Keith Delaplane, plus LCBA Honey Show	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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)		Sept. 21	"Individual Learning Phenotypes Drive Collective Foraging Behavior in Honey Bees," Behavioral Ecologist Chelsea Cook, assistant professor, Marquette University and Founder/Chief Science Officer, HiveTech Solutions	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				victor@makinghoney.com	Paulding
Pine Grove Middle Beekeeping Club	Pine Grove Middle School Valdosta, GA 31601					bethbaker@lowndes.k12.ga.us	Lowndes
Polk County Beekeepers Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm	via Zoom	Sept. 9	September speaker TBD. Follow us at: facebook.com/savebeeswithsb	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Academe of the Oaks Teaching Apiary 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030	3rd Monday, 7pm		Sept. 19	Annual Tara Beekeepers Fall Picnic, 12 - 4 pm	tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	We will meet at Forester Farms and Apiary, 51 Forester drive, Rising Fawn, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm			"Preparing your hives for winter," Dan Scales	2nparker@bellsouth.net	Douglas

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Spilling *The* Honey

OCTOBER 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

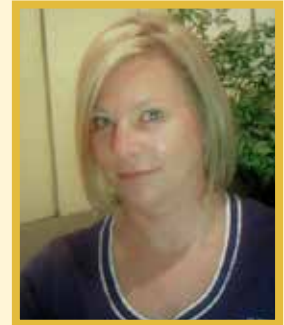
There are 1001 things which must be done to host a statewide conference. I'm proud to say that we have the most energetic and dedicated group of volunteers. They are devoted to a high quality GBA conference and, most importantly, to each other. We enjoyed a much greater than expected turn out, so I know we made the right decision to have this conference in person.

I am grateful to **Derrick Fowler** who walked the Ramsey conference center at least three times, got the food and drinks, managed the planning meetings and kept me on point. From home, he kept up with our conference by Zoom and text. **Luke Ellerman** managed our walk-in registration and banking issues during the entire conference.

Linda Tillman and **Julia Mahood** worked on getting the speakers, arranged schedules and the program printing. Linda baked cookies for the speakers' goody bags and Julia worked on the registrants' GBA bags. Everything looked and tasted appealing as usual.

For her years of dedication to GBA and its members, **Linda Tillman** received a unanimous vote for a lifetime membership. And **Kathy Bourn** was named the 2021 GBA Beekeeper of the Year.

(continued on next page)



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from previous page)

Bobby Chassion was our “man on the ground” reaching out to Gainesville vendors for us, setting up his bee colonies, leading the registration, organizing the nomination and election process, *and delivering the all important ice cream!*

Harvest Hoffman kept our website up to date before registration and made name badges.

Our newsletter team of **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich** kept the conference well-advertised and Peter's graphics were used regularly in *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal*.

Teri Myers spent all day on Thursday setting up the registration desk, bags and signage. She then worked the registration desk, sold tickets, scooped ice cream and packed up at the end of the conference.

Linda Tillman and **Jonathan Hayes** managed the Zoom meeting for those who chose to attend by Zoom. Jonathan is a natural director and kept the program on track.

Brutz English managed the honey and beeswax show, and stepped in to make sure we didn't miss anything at our business meeting or board meeting.

Marilynn Parker, our out-going secretary, kept our minutes and made sure we were using Robert's Rules of Order at our meetings. I'd like to extend a special “thank you” to Marilyn for stepping into the role of GBA Secretary at my request last fall and look forward to working with her in the future.

Kathy Bourn led a group and sold raffle tickets for hours. **Kelley Campbell** and **Gail Colson** sold GBA swag.

Katie Goodman was honey and beeswax show secretary and hauled in the GBA t-shirts she had been storing for two years.

Tim Doherty and **Jimmy Gatt** sold drink tickets Friday evening.

Eddie Gwaltney played beautiful music during meal times.

Mary Cahill-Roberts, **Kelley Campbell**, **Teri Meyers** and **Bobby Chassion** scooped and served ice cream.

Tim Doherty and **Kelley Campbell** drove the campus to pick up yard signs and then Tim packed my car with all our GBA supplies. That was especially important to me because this is the job I dread after the conference!

I so appreciate all of you, the **high school students**, and **Molly McGill of Blue Ridge Honey Co.** for their time and service toward a fantastic conference. Please forgive me if I missed your name or something you contributed.



Linda Tillman (left), with Gina Gallucci (right), received a unanimous vote for GBA Lifetime Membership

I know there are many people who offered to help before and during the conference. I heard many compliments and thanks. The 1001 things that got done required this great GBA village. My admiration only grows toward all of you who created this marvelous success.

GBA was also honored to help host the **Young Harris Bee Institute** for beekeeping certification classes and testing for Journeyman and Master Beekeepers. **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, **Jack Garrison** and **Cindy Hodges** worked to make that a success. The Journeyman certificates were awarded to **Mary Lacksen**, **Olivia Menard** and **Marcus Pollard**. **Bobby Chassion** received his Master Beekeeper Certificate. On behalf of GBA, we honor your hard work and send you our heartfelt congratulations!

Our elections went well and we voted for **Luke Ellerman** for Treasurer, **Georgia Zumwalt** for Secretary. Our newest directors are **Emily Heath**, **Karen Palmer**, and **Monica Sheppard**. Many thanks to all who ran for elected positions. I'd like to extend my appreciation to the outgoing directors **Sophia Price**, **Bobby Torbush** and **David Logue**. Your volunteer support of GBA does not go unnoticed.

The GBA directors and local association presidents have been asked to speak to their local members with regards to joining GBA, and requesting GBA *Save the Honey Bee* license plate proceeds. Our local club presidents will be kept updated on the GBA video library as the program develops.

Please, enjoy the sights of our fall conference in this edition of *Spilling the Honey*. We will see you in the spring! 🍯

– *Gina*

BEHIND THE CONFERENCE CURTAIN

by **Kathy Bourn**

If you attend a GBA conference, what you see is an organized set-up featuring world-class speakers, equipment vendors, a honey show, and a couple hundred of your beekeeping friends. What you don't see is all the tremendous work that goes into staging these events. Here is a look "behind the conference curtain."

Hundreds of hours of conference committee calls arrange for speakers, get the program set and printed, lock down the best location, and get people to handle all the little details. The conference committee meets at least monthly to cover these details including ordering food, arranging for the honey ice cream, and even figuring out coffee for all during the conference. Hotel reservations get made for all of the keynote speakers. Hours go into getting commitments from the sponsors to support GBA with financial contributions. Deals are made with local hotels to provide lodging for our members at a discount.

The vendors are contacted and a map is drawn to place each of them in the conference center, with an eye to featuring our sponsors. The registration form has to be set up each time to cover the specifics. For the recent conference, we had to add in the registration for Young Harris testing, for example. Name tag printing includes putting together the list of registrants, designating who paid for dinners, stuffing them into holders, and putting them in order to hand out. Volunteers are organized for everything from registration to raffle ticket sales. *And that's only the tip of the iceberg!*

The day of the conference starts with setting up the positions, positioning the vendors, getting the technology up and running, bringing in all the supplies, and making sure the catering is set. Where and how entries will be received for the honey show is set up and organized. Add in certification testing, honey show training, a president's breakfast, along with an evening dinner and speaker.

It's hard to appreciate all the hard work and commitment that goes on behind the conference curtain. 🍯



Gina Gallucci works out venue logistics with Lanier Technical College's Conference Center Director Jeff Pruitt



Brutz English managed the honey and beeswax show and honey judge training sessions



Katie Goodman unpacks GBA merchandise



Jonathan Hayes keeps all the conference technology running smoothly



Teri Meyer helps prepare conference goody bags.

GBA 2021 BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Kathy Bourn

by *Linda Tillman*, GBA Past-President

Kathy Bourn is a quiet force who is always an active part of GBA events. Whether she is photographing a conference or putting together the newsletter, GBA benefits from her contributions. A number of GBA members recognized this with nominations of Kathy as Beekeeper of the Year. Here are some of the things said about Kathy in her nominations:

“Kathy loves her bees in her many different styles of hives and cares for them year round with diligence. She goes to meetings and conferences and listens to the speakers to grow her beekeeping knowledge. She is an inspiring leader. She was Lake Hartwell Beekeepers’ president for several years, and continues to be an officer in that club. She has run LHBA’s short course many times. As the GBA newsletter editor, she is a leader on the state level.

Kathy’s full time job is as a photographer for Channel 11 News. She has done many wonderful stories over the years about honey bees and beekeepers. She even met with a competitor’s station (Channel 2) when they wanted to start an apiary at their office, giving them advice on how to start. Kathy is a very creative person. She worked hard to create a club apiary at LHBA, and to find a way to show the GBA members how great the Artisan show was in 2020.

Kathy is one of our most active GBA members. She has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor for a few years now and has excelled at it. This is one of the biggest jobs that GBA has, it takes hours of work every month. Kathy often writes her own articles for the newsletter. She is a master of gadgets and has shared her plans with the membership in the newsletter many times. As newsletter editor, Kathy has worked hard to keep the newsletter full of interesting and helpful items. In addition to Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, she is also a member of MABA and is ready to pitch in any time she’s asked, whether it’s moving chairs around or speaking at the short course every year. At GBA meetings you’ll often find her selling raffle tickets, with a smile on her face! At 2020’s Artisan show Kathy offered to drive down and film the whole show. Then she edited it and made an amazing video that was a huge hit at the virtual conference. Folks commented that they got to see more of the show through the video than they usually do at the in-person conferences! This didn’t just involve one day at the show, it took her many hours to edit the video. Kathy has supported the prison program over the years, by volunteering as a speaker and most recently she



Kathy Bourn (right) receives the 2021 Beekeeper of the Year award from GBA Past-President Linda Tillman.

transferred many videos to DVDs for the prison classes.

The thing about Kathy that makes her so special is her positive can-do attitude. She is never seeking attention or a pat on the back, she’s just happy to pitch in when needed, no matter how insignificant the job is. It’s time that Kathy gets some long-deserved recognition for her years of dedication to the beekeeping community in Georgia.”

This was not Kathy’s only nomination and every nomination for Kathy detailed wonderful and specific reasons that Kathy Bourn was chosen the 2021 GBA Beekeeper of the Year! 🐝

GBA FALL 2021 HONEY & BEESWAX SHOW



Above (clockwise): Show secretary Katie Goodman checks in entries; honey show judges confer; on behalf of Lee Arrendale State Prison, Julia Mahood (center) and David Hollomon (right) accept the Best Comb Honey award from Virginia Webb (left); beautifully prepared extracted honey; a trio of wax figurine birds; the 2021 show entries await the announcement of the winners.

SEE COMPLETE RESULTS ON NEXT PAGE >>

GBA FALL 2021 HONEY & BEESWAX SHOW

BEST IN SHOW

Virginia Webb

Commercial Extracted Honey

(At right: Virginia Webb accepts her Best In Show award from show secretary Katie Goodman)



MAJOR DIVISION WINNERS

Best Extracted Honey: **Virginia Webb** – Commercial Extracted Honey

Best Comb Honey: **Lee Arrendale State Prison Program** - Cut Comb Honey

Best Beeswax Item: **Pamela Carter** – Molded Taper Candles

Sweepstakes: **Virginia Webb**

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY WINNERS

Light Extracted Honey

2nd Pamela Carter
3rd..... Andy Luther
Very Highly Commendable Lesa Pierce
Highly Commendable Millie Reeves

Medium Extracted Honey

1st Place *(State Champion)* Virginia Webb
2nd East GA State College
3rd..... Charlie Scott
Very Highly Commendable Karen Miller
Highly Commendable Paul Cerpoviz
Commendable Larry Clark

Dark Extracted Honey

2nd Virginia Webb
3rd..... Andy Luther
Highly Commendable Mike McGraw

Novice Extracted Honey

2nd Karen Miller
3rd..... Mike McGraw
Very Highly Commendable Georgia Zumwalt
Highly Commendable Steven Montgomery
Commendable Lesa Pierce

Commercial Extracted Honey

1st Place *(State Champion)* Virginia Webb
2nd Bobbee McBee's

Varietal Extracted Honey

1st Place *(State Champion)* Jay Parsons
2nd Virginia Webb
Very Highly Commendable Steven Montgomery

Sourwood Honey

2nd Virginia Webb
3rd..... Steven Montgomery

Infused Extracted Honey

2nd Julia Mahood
3rd..... Virginia Webb
Very Highly Commendable Jay Parsons

Creamed Honey

1st Place *(State Champion)* Julia Mahood
2nd Bobbee McBee's

Flavored Creamed Honey

1st Place *(State Champion)* Julia Mahood
2nd Bobbee McBee's

Cut Comb Honey

2nd Virginia Webb
3rd..... Daphne Glass

Full Frame Comb Honey

2nd Virginia Webb

Black Jar

1st Place Tim Doherty

Beeswax Block (small)

2nd Bobbee McBee's
3rd..... Anita Curry
Very Highly Commendable Virginia Webb
Highly Commendable Pamela Carter
Commendable Daphne Glass

Beeswax Block (large)

2nd Virginia Webb
3rd..... Pamela Carter

Beeswax Bars

1st Place *(State Champion)* Daphne Glass
3rd..... Virginia Webb
Commendable Georgia Zumwalt

Beeswax Ingots

3rd Virginia Webb

Beeswax Figurines

1st Place *(State Champion)* Virginia Webb
2nd Daphne Glass

Beeswax Candles – Dipped tapers

3rd..... Virginia Webb

Beeswax Candles – Molded tapers

1st Place *(State Champion)* Pamela Carter

Beeswax Candles – Ornamental

3rd Pamela Carter

Beeswax Candles – Floating

1st Place *(State Champion)* Pamela Carter

Beeswax Candles – Rolled

2nd Virginia Webb

PRISON DIVISION WINNERS

Extracted Honey

1st Place Lee Arrendale State Prison
2nd Place Hall County Correctional Institution

Creamed Honey

1st Place Lee Arrendale State Prison

Cut Comb Honey

1st Place Lee Arrendale State Prison

Infused Extracted Honey

2nd Place Hall County Correctional Institution

Novice

2nd Place Lee Arrendale State Prison

Black Jar

1st Place Hall County Correctional Institution

OFFICIALS:

Presiding Senior Judge: Mary Cahill-Roberts
Senior Judges: Steve Genta & Brutz English
Judges: Rodney Garner & Betty Cosgrove
Show Secretaries: Katie Goodman & Gail Dean

GBA HONEY SHOW COMMITTEE:

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

GBA FALL 2021 CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS



Above (clockwise): Bobby Thanepoh talks about the finer points of making creamed honey; Pamela Carter, a winner in multiple categories, accepts her award from show secretary Katie Goodman; colonies of bees await the start of one of Bobby Chaisson's practical beekeeping presentations; Jimmy Gatt presents on the topic of what makes a high quality nuc; goody bags awaiting pick-up; shoppers browse the always popular vendor area.

GBA FALL 2021 CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS



Above (clockwise): BEEK-a-Boo; conference attendees roam the vendor area in search of new equipment or a souvenir; vendors setting up in preparation for the conference; new Journeyman Beekeepers Olivia Menard, Mary Lacksen and Marcus Pollard are all smiles; attendees take in one of the conference's break-out sessions; GBA president Gina Gallucci speaks to attendees.

Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

What are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in around \$100,000 a year from license plate sales. When Gail Dean started working with the legislature to bring about this bill, the GBA officers and the legislative committee wanted to get these funds to support beekeeping education in Georgia.

The best way for that to happen is if local clubs ask for the money to support their projects!

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members.

- 1. APPLY to get your club speaker fees paid with license plate funds** - this is the most direct educational application of the funds
- 2. APPLY to start a beekeeping training program** - to support your club's Beekeeping 101 course or to support a junior beekeeping program.
- 3. APPLY to set up a club apiary** for the training of your members through ongoing hive inspections or to educate the public about bees.
- 4. APPLY to support the purchase of equipment to make your educational meetings run more smoothly** - a computer and projector for your club meetings, a Z-kit to allow you to have speakers from far away speak to your club using a GBA Zoom account.
- 5. APPLY to help your club put on any kind of program or project that will help to educate your members to be better beekeepers.**

AND APPLYING is EASY. Dan Long who has applied for many grants for his Eastern Piedmont club says, "Applying takes only about 15 minutes and is really easy."

The form is a Wufoo form that you fill out online. **Here is a link to the form.** The questions are simple and quick to answer. You do have to answer some important questions to support your request.



These are:

1. Who will benefit from this grant?
2. What are the educational benefits of this grant?
3. Provide an itemized list of the costs

Aside from your name and address, that is about it.

We encourage your club to come up with projects that can be funded by the license plate and APPLY, APPLY, APPLY. There is no limit as to how often you can apply and the funds are there for GBA to use.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🍯

Useful links for local club presidents

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

HALL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE BEEKEEPING PROGRAM

By *Charlie Scott*

Last summer, Julia Mahood, the GBA Prison Committee Chair, and I were talking about the program and I mentioned that I might be interested in helping out a bit...

Well, the next thing I know it's mid-October and I'm riding in the car with her to meet with Walt Davis, the warden at Hall County Correctional Institute. Fast forward to early January 2021 and I'm at the prison with Harold Lanier, a veteran beekeeper and proprietor of Lanier Bee Barn; Grant Cook, a UGA pre-med undergrad student; and Julia, making introductions and explaining our mission to 12 eager students, which include 10 inmates as well as the warden and deputy warden. Our mission here is to teach these guys the basics of beekeeping so that they can become certified beekeepers and to give them an opportunity to get involved in beekeeping as a hobby, or perhaps even as a business. Regardless, this can open up opportunities for them in their communities upon their release.

After that initial meeting we ordered our hive equipment plus nucs and packages using grant money applied for and obtained from the **GBA License Tag Program**. We have been meeting every Wednesday for a couple of hours since that initial meeting in January. The first couple of months we spent reading and discussing Dr. Keith Delaplaine's *First Lessons in Beekeeping*.

The inmates then assembled all the purchased equipment in



preparation for the bees' arrival.

We received the bees and installed them during May. We now have six hives and a nuc. The bees Harold provided have built out really well. We harvested around fifty pounds of honey in July, which seems pretty good considering the late-spring start. We do have one hive that's a bit on the *spicy* side. Their guard bees typically escort us practically back to the cell block. Of course, that's the hive where most of the harvested honey came from! Our goal now is to get these hives through the summer/fall and prepared for winter.

The students are great! They've come a long way already in such a short time. Just like many of us, they've learned quickly that those gentle bees in May you worked in a veil and a T-shirt can transition sometimes to being quite feisty, and that long shirts and some gloves can come in handy. Harold's "pro tips" always get their attention. Regardless of circumstances, these guys are always eager to learn — whether it means heading out to the apiary or spending time in the classroom to prepare for the certification tests when that opportunity comes. I'm grateful to Julia Mahood and GBA for giving me this opportunity and to all the support from the prison staff, the inmates, Harold, and Grant. 🍯

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Bobby Chaisson

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Bobby Chaisson grew up in a house that was built in 1866. And in the walls of his bedroom, there were bees. The bees always intrigued him but he didn't become a beekeeper until thirteen or fourteen years ago when he got a couple of colonies. He began removing bees from structures as a part of his new hobby and now it's his fulltime job. He has worked for Georgia Bee Removal since 2015. He does 150 - 175 removals every year.

Bobby loves so many things about the honey bee. "The more I learn about them, the more I am amazed. Every little thing they do is fascinating - how they find nectar; how they find a new place to live." He has an observation hive in his house and is never tired of watching, learning more about what they are doing.

At this most recent conference, Bobby's nametag ribbons read, "Director," "Speaker," "Conference Committee," and "Club President," along with a couple of fun ones like

(continued on next page)



Bobby presenting a practical beekeeping talk at the GBA conference; (inset) Bobby receives his Master Beekeeper award.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

“Appreciated” and “Best in Class.” He was named the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2019.

As one of GBA’s regional directors, Bobby visits the clubs in his area regularly. Because of his work and his bee talks, he knows beekeepers throughout the southeast. “I can’t tell you how much it does for me to be able to talk to all these different beekeepers – it’s so cool to be in touch with that many people on that many levels.” He helps people learn about bees and it warms his heart to think he may make a difference in their lives.

Bobby has been president of the Tri-County bee club for many years. In addition to running that bee club, Bobby gives lots of talks to other local bee clubs. His talks are practical and very helpful. One of his best talks is “Thinking Outside the Box” which is all about what you can learn from just watching your bee hive from the outside. He is a good public speaker and even though he gets a little nervous, the always-attentive audience never gets a clue that he is.

At the recent GBA Fall Conference, Bobby chaired the nominating committee, got people to run for office, developed the voting poll and announced the results. In addition to that, he ordered the honey ice cream from a company in Cleveland, Georgia, donated the honey to make the ice cream, transported it to the conference, and worked with a number of people to serve the ice cream. He carried lots of stuff, found lots of people, helping at every turn to make sure all things fell into the right place. Oh, and also on the long list, he brought his own beehives to the conference, set them up, and taught breakouts each day, teaching how to inspect bee hives and how to find and mark the queen. And at this same conference, he sat for and *PASSED* his *Master Beekeeper certification*.

On his own volition, Bobby has developed a phone app for the officers and directors of GBA to keep better track of the local clubs and their meetings and officer changes. He was working on an app for camping, and realized the same app could be used for the directors. “Before I knew it,” he said, “it was 3 AM and I was still adding things to the GBA app.”

About volunteering to this extent for GBA, Bobby said “A lot of people have helped me along the way and I try to give back that much and more. I will help wherever I can.” Bobby said, “As far as volunteering for GBA goes, there are so many things that require volunteers to make GBA happen. I encourage everyone to get involved with GBA in some form. It’s important for everyone to feel like they have a place in GBA. Volunteering is one way to help the GBA wheel keep going around and around.”

When Bobby takes a break from the bees, you will find him in his camper, trying to meet his personal goal of camping

at every state park in Georgia. Even on his camping trips, it’s not unusual for his cell to ring and on the other end will be a GBA officer or a club president needing Bobby. GBA has been so positively impacted by the help Bobby has given. Thank you, Bobby, for giving your all to GBA. *We are so lucky to have your help!* 🍯



Bobby was named Beekeeper of the Year in 2019; Bobby with one of his many bee-themed textile artisan show entries; picking up the honey ice cream from Mountain Fresh Creamery.

zoom SAVED THE DAY FOR GBA

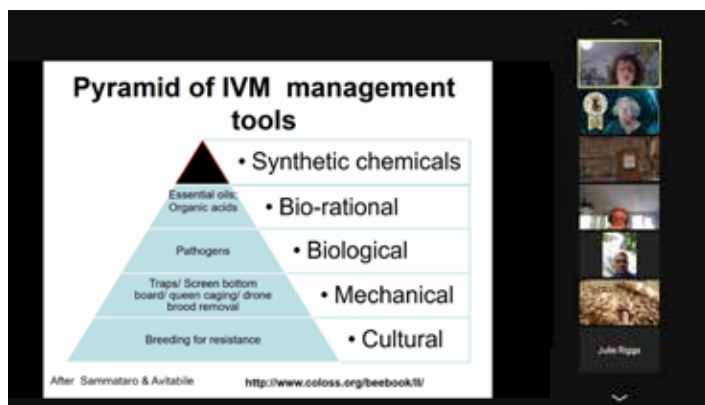
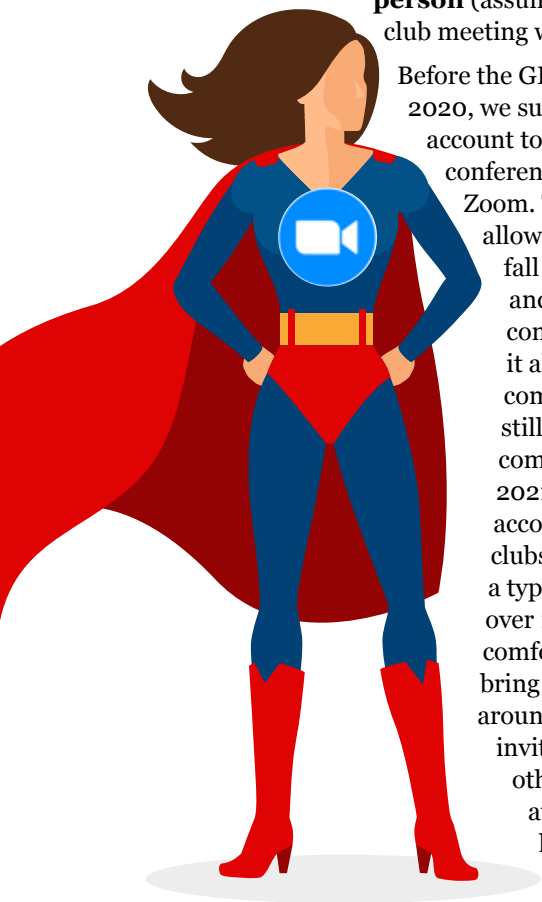
When COVID hit, the GBA officers scrambled to figure out how to support and keep our local clubs alive and thriving. Zoom subscriptions were the answer. We subscribed to three Zoom accounts so we could offer to allow local clubs to use the accounts as a gift from GBA.

Jonathan Hayes headed up the Zoom committee, which included Gina Gallucci, Karen Palmer, and Linda Tillman. Each of the committee members agreed to host Zoom meetings for the local clubs. We first employed our Zoom account on March 27, 2020 when Linda Tillman presented a virtual hive inspection by showing a video while discussing her hive inspection with a group of new MABA beekeepers.

The first bee club to use a GBA Zoom account for a meeting was Dan Long's Eastern Piedmont Club on April 6, 2020. Gradually as the reality of our long COVID confinement became more obvious, more and more clubs got on board. As of this date:

- **More than half of our 46 clubs used our Zoom accounts** to hold their meetings.
- The Zoom committee members hosted 165 meetings in 2020 and 102 meetings in 2021 for **a total of 267 meetings** so far.
- The amount of volunteer time over four volunteers was astounding. We didn't host equally, but if we had, this amounts to **a minimum of 100 volunteer hours per person** (assuming 1 1/2 hours per club meeting we hosted).

Before the GBA Fall Conference 2020, we subscribed to a larger account to be able to host our conference completely on Zoom. The larger account allowed us to have the fall 2020 conference and the spring 2021 conference online, and it also provided a Zoom component for people still uncomfortable to come in person in fall 2021. Having these accounts allowed large clubs like MABA (with a typical attendance of over 100) to use Zoom comfortably. Clubs could bring in speakers from around the country and invite members from other Georgia clubs to attend. Many of us heard Marla Spivak



Using the Zoom platform, Dr. Victoria Soroker was able to deliver her key note address to the GBA Fall Conference all the way from Israel.

and Kim Flottum, for example, by joining other club meetings on Zoom.

Having Zoom as a GBA asset has also allowed committees with members from all over the state to meet with ease. The committees working on the new bee removal law, the license plate committee, and the beekeeper of the year all met regularly on the GBA Zoom account. The convenience of not having to gather people from different counties in one physical place makes committee meetings an obvious reason to continue to use Zoom.

Study groups for certified beekeepers and for journeyman certification were held on Zoom with Jimmy Gatt, and Claressa Lucas and Shelli Godfrey respectively leading these groups. Danny Harvey's club, Henry County Beekeepers, regularly held its board meetings on Zoom as did Beekeepers of Gwinnett, MABA and others. Virtual hive inspections in 2020 were presented to 91 different individuals and although MABA offered in-person inspections in 2021, 41 different participants participated virtually this year.

A side benefit of our Zoom accounts is that GBA now has created a rich and varied library of videos that clubs can use to have a program when they don't have an invited speaker. Use of this library with over 50 titles only requires that a club have Internet access during their club meeting.

When speakers can't come in person or feel uncomfortable traveling, we can still have those speakers at our conference, as we did this fall when Tom Seeley, Jonathan Lundgren, and Victoria Soroker all joined us by Zoom. Zoom opens the door to many people we might not ordinarily be able to have and saves GBA travel costs.

Brainstorming is going on about how Zoom can continue to help GBA. The honey show committee is talking about using it as a teaching tool to provide honey judge training. Various clubs are investigating "bringing in" speakers from afar. While we may not continue to subscribe to four accounts as many clubs return to meeting in person, at least one Zoom account will be an ongoing asset for GBA. *Our use of Zoom in GBA and in other parts of our lives is here to stay!* 🍯



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: A Bee Log-Themed Top Bar Hive

by Brian Norman

My first year beekeeping was a disaster. I'm sure that many other beekeepers can relate. I lost my first and only colony shortly after I got it. Instead of quitting, I started researching. Reading, watching videos, and learning as much as I could. Over the winter, I purchased more packages and prepared for spring.

I resolved to take out my frustrations by building a top bar hive. A local tree service dumps trees, and wood chips at a friend's house. I saw a hole in a log that looked a lot like a bee log entrance. I decided to build a bee log-themed top bar hive using the hole. I started with a typical pine wood top bar hive, with some help from my uncle who is a carpenter. I collected bark from the same tree and covered the outside of the hive with it using wood glue. I made a stand out of a couple of cedar logs and fashioned a roof

out of hand-split cedar shingles. I found this to be a huge mistake when I realized how heavy it was. So I replaced the cedar with a nice lightweight metal roof.

The bees seem to love it. The day I installed my packages there were a few scout bees around the entrance, and some of them were headbutting me. I think they were already trying to claim it. It does get a bit hot in the summer, but I have a good vented follower board. I use the back of the hive as a makeshift mechanical closet to solve all kinds of problems within the hive.

Top bar beekeeping has been a lot of fun for me, and I am in the process of making another bee log hive, which should be done by the spring. 🐝



Plants for Bees

The Seven-Son flower is a small tree to a large shrub. The flowers appear in mid to late July in tight, whorled sets of seven –hence its common name.

Heptacodium miconioides is a large, fountain-shaped, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that typically grows 15-20' at maturity with a 10' spread. May also be trained as a single-trunk tree. Features terminal panicles of fragrant, creamy-white flowers in late summer to early fall. Flowers appear in capitula (flattened clusters of stalkless blooms) within typically seven-branched clusters. Each capitulum typically contains six flowers. Flowers are followed in fall by an equally showy (if not showier) display: small, purplish-red fruits (1/2" long drupes) crowned by very showy, rose-pink calyces which elongate after bloom and last into late fall. Tan bark exfoliates to reveal attractive brown inner bark, which provides good winter interest. Leaves are narrow, shiny, ovate-oblong and medium-green. This plant, native to China, is rare and its wild populations are vulnerable to extinction. However, it has relatively recently become available in commerce and is increasing in popularity as an ornamental shrub, though



Photos by Kathy Bourn

it may be difficult to find. It is a good source of nectar for butterflies and other insect pollinators in the fall.

The genus name *Heptacodium* comes from Greek and means “seven heads”, in reference to the typically seven-part flower clusters that make up the inflorescence. 🐝

The Seven-Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*)

TYPE: Deciduous shrub

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae

NATIVE RANGE: China

ZONE: 5 to 9

HEIGHT: 15.00 to 20.00 feet

SPREAD: 8.0 to 10.00 feet

BLOOM TIME: September

BLOOM DESCRIPTION: White with pink calyx

SUN: Full sun

WATER: Medium

MAINTENANCE: Low

SUGGESTED USE: Flowering tree

FLOWER: Showy, fragrant

ATTRACTS: Butterflies, hummingbirds

FRUIT: Showy

OTHER: Winter Interest

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

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
gbnewsletters@gmail.com

BEE A-MAZE-D

This year, Denver Downs Farm's corn maze theme celebrates bees and honey production. Denver Downs Farm is a South Carolina Century Farm owned and operated by the Garrison family of Anderson County since 1869. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was established as a cotton farm, transitioned to a dairy farm, and today is still a working farm devoted to agri-tourism and entertainment! Visitors can try to navigate the maze, and enjoy other fall fare, through November 14. Tickets can be purchased online at: denverdownsfarm.ticketspice.com/fall-festival 🍯



Poem

Flights

By *Stan Butt*

*A bee has only
so many flights
in her short sweet life.*

*If she doesn't take them,
she lives much longer.
In the dark,*

*she doesn't soar,
or see the sun,
or walk on flowers.*

*So she flies
all the hours she has
and never counts.*



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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 gbnewsletter@gmail.com

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

If you put honey out, you're going to attract bees to it. Well, if you put food out, you're going to attract beekeepers!

On September 3rd the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers were attracted to the shores of Lake Hartwell for the **Annual LHBA Picnic And Honey Show**. Club members and their families got a chance to sit and talk about bees and more, while sampling all the goodies each beekeeper brought. The black jar honey contest offered 14 varieties. Everyone took a taste and cast their vote. The first round came up with a five-way tie for first. That meant more tasting. Five members volunteered for the taste-off as a tiebreaker. The ultimate winner was **Kevin McCraney** with his dark honey. *It turns out he didn't even vote for his own honey!*



The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association also participated in **Hart County Ag Day** this past Saturday. Club President Drew Harvey, members Holli and Tray Kircher, and Kevin and Jonathon McCraney helped the public learn more about honey bees! 🐝

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Honey bee drones are the Rodney Dangerfields of the bee world... *they (often) get no respect!* At MABA's upcoming October meeting (Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm), learn all about the amazing drones and their mysterious drone congregation areas (including how to find them using the other kind of flying drone). "**Game of Drones**" will be presented by Georgia Master Beekeeper **Julia Mahood** (pictured at right), who has been keeping bees since 2004 and created the citizen science website MapMyDca.com to gather data on drone congregation areas. The presentation will be conducted via Zoom. A mentoring time for new beekeepers precedes each MABA meeting at 6:30 pm. 🐝



Oglethorpe County Beekeepers

Oglethorpe County Bee Club's September 20th guest speaker was club vice president **Madeleine Schwab**, whose topic of "Monitoring Bee Behavior" involved work she has done for a Capstone project at the University of Georgia. Basically, the device she created monitors the total number of bees coming and going in the hive over the course of a day. The count was achieved using a camera and hardware with AI. The value of this system lies in the ability to potentially know when bees are about to swarm, when critters are bothering hives, bee health issues, and other things related to changes in colony activity. 🐝

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6:00pm				gmhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Toombs
Amicalola Beekeepers	The 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 Drive, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7:00pm				champlin@tds.net	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	via Zoom	Oct. 21	"Research Updates: Good and Bad Come with Your Mite Test Results," Dr. Keith Delaplane	aron_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		Oct. 12	"Winter Preparations," Bob Binnie	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6:00pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	First Baptist Church Holly Springs 2632 Holly Spgs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30142	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Columbia County Extension Office 6420 Pollards Pond Rd, Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm				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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Wilson Pharmacy Building UGA 250 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602. *does not easily GPS* www.epba.club/directions	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Zoom	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				spposey@gmail.com	
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Oct. 28	"Sustainable Beekeeping," Steve Page	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Fair Bridge Inn Express Valley Drive Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	Via Zoom	Oct. 12	"Honey Bee Digestion," Dr. Tom Webster, University of Kentucky	<i>If you are not a memeber and would like to attend, please email us at henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com</i>	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart Co. BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	via Zoom	Oct. 19	"Game of Drones," Julia Mahood	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	N. GA. Tech Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				ardisroger@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			No meeting in Nov. or Dec. See you in Jan. 2022!	secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Creekside Education Center, 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Oct. 11	"How To Better Photograph Honeybees," Georgia Zumwalt	info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm		Oct. 18	"Monitoring Backyard Hives in Hamilton County, TN," Caitlin Jarvis	tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office at 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				billbrantley@att.net	Troup
Twin Rivers	"Ware County Library, 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502"	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	"Meeting Hall of Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church Street, Loganville, GA 30052"	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm			"Preparing your hives for winter," Dan Scales	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

NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving! I am thankful for all of GBA and our continued growth and health as an organization dedicated to beekeeping and apiary education. Many thanks to all of you who put your time and energy into making us better each month.

Brutz English and Bobby Chassion led efforts to improve systems which will help our directors better connect with each of their clubs. We are sending an email to all the local presidents to track their leadership changes and contact information. This will improve overall communications and relationship building. We will use it to credit the presidents' accounts for their GBA dues for their time as president of the local clubs. Please let your directors know what you need from them. They are Brutz English, Bobby Chaisson, Mike Conner and Kelley Campbell, Emily Heath, Monica Sheppard and Karen Palmer. You can find their contact information, along with that of the GBA officers and board members on page 12 of this newsletter. Many thanks for all their hard work.

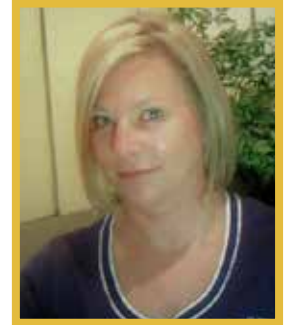
Linda Tillman and Jonathan Hayes are putting the final touches on the GBA Video Library. Soon the club presidents will be able to choose from many recorded talks to show at their local meeting. Watch for that announcement by email in the days ahead!

Have you asked your fellow local club members if they have joined GBA and if they read our newsletter? Have you asked your fellow club members if they've bought a license plate or developed a great idea for a grant request? Please do all of these things to support GBA which, in turn, supports you by:

- Giving you access to the latest industry information;
- Conducting two professional conferences annually featuring expert speakers from the beekeeping industry;
- Allowing you to meet, interact, and network with beekeepers across Georgia;
- Providing opportunities to see and purchase the latest beekeeping equipment on the market;
- Publishing a monthly newsletter providing a resource point for state beekeepers.

I'm thankful for my beekeeping friends, my bees and a burgeoning GBA! 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

What are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in around \$100,000 a year from license plate sales. When Gail Dean started working with the legislature to bring about this bill, the GBA officers and the legislative committee wanted to get these funds to support beekeeping education in Georgia.

The best way for that to happen is if local clubs ask for the money to support their projects!

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members.

- 1. APPLY to get your club speaker fees paid with license plate funds** - this is the most direct educational application of the funds
- 2. APPLY to start a beekeeping training program** - to support your club's Beekeeping 101 course or to support a junior beekeeping program.
- 3. APPLY to set up a club apiary** for the training of your members through ongoing hive inspections or to educate the public about bees.
- 4. APPLY to support the purchase of equipment to make your educational meetings run more smoothly** - a computer and projector for your club meetings, a Z-kit to allow you to have speakers from far away speak to your club using a GBA Zoom account.
- 5. APPLY to help your club put on any kind of program or project that will help to educate your members to be better beekeepers.**

AND APPLYING is EASY. Dan Long who has applied for many grants for his Eastern Piedmont club says, "Applying takes only about 15 minutes and is really easy."

The form is a Wufoo form that you fill out online. **Here is a link to the form.** The questions are simple and quick to answer. You do have to answer some important questions to support your request.



These are:

1. Who will benefit from this grant?
2. What are the educational benefits of this grant?
3. Provide an itemized list of the costs

Aside from your name and address, that is about it.

We encourage your club to come up with projects that can be funded by the license plate and APPLY, APPLY, APPLY. There is no limit as to how often you can apply and the funds are there for GBA to use.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🍯

Useful links for local club presidents

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**



Prison program



Teaching tools

What Does the *Save The Honey Bee* License Plate Mean to Georgia?

By **Sophia Price**, License Plate Fund Committee Chair

The *Save the Honey Bee* license plate has made an enormous impact on beekeeping in Georgia. Grants awarded have grown from just seven the first year (2019), to 45 so far in 2021. Local associations have received the largest number of grants.

It provides education:

Funds from tag grants have provided classes for adults and youth, as well as books for certification, bees and equipment for bee yards, and classes for new beekeepers. It means schools now offer STEM programs; UGA has a bee yard for training the veterinary students in beekeeping so they will know how to help beekeepers. (I personally know eight veterinarians and only one knows anything about bees).

It provides growth:

All the grants promote beekeeping in Georgia, not only in the local associations, but in communities everywhere. Clubs can grow. Communities can become better partners with beekeepers. Non-beekeepers and bee friends can have a better appreciation for our special bee. Students can grow in knowledge and appreciation of the honey bee.

It provides research:

Grants are helping with the Bee Informed Partnership Sentinel Program and with University of Georgia research. The findings or results from this research will be available for every beekeeper in Georgia. This research will go far beyond Georgia's boundaries. Beekeepers can utilize possible research findings to improve their management.

It provides opportunity:

Opportunity for local bee associations with little funds in their treasury, or bee clubs whose funds dwindled due to lack of events in 2020; opportunity to obtain speakers, equipment or supplies for programs, events, and community outreach. 🐝



Habitat planting projects



Observation hives



Kids' bee suits

LEARNING BY DOING:

Notes from Tara Beekeepers 2021 Experiential Beekeeping Course

by *Mary Cahill Roberts, Tara Beekeepers Association*

I often wonder about bees, and I find creative ideas present themselves in different ways. Some happen outside in the bee yard when I'm observing and trying to figure out why the bees did something. Others happen while sitting inside at a conference, listening to a bee lecture, and thinking, "Wow, I wonder if that would work...?"

This past year, the Tara Beekeepers Association launched a seven-month, real-world experiment. We would teach new beekeepers by offering hands-on, experiential beekeeping classes in tandem with a class lecture. We would use the seven hives at our club's newly refurbished apiary, teaching in real time, with instruction based on time of year, weather and what was going on in each hive. Could we teach these novice beekeepers the skills to take care of bees? *Absolutely!* In April, we recruited our first cohort—12 students, mostly newbies, and a few with some level of experience.

Earlier in the year, we met as a group to define our curriculum and our goals for the program. Specifically, we decided that we'd do a lecture via Zoom each month, followed by a hands-on class in the apiary to reinforce concepts presented in the lecture. The students would also have Q&A mentoring, if needed, before our monthly club meetings via Zoom. Class communication/mentoring would also happen through a private Facebook group.

Our goal was to hit all facets of educational opportunities. It seemed to work well, but the students didn't always come with questions. Maybe we overshot or asked too much of their time. There are lessons to be learned here.

Our President, Deb DeWitt, is a great leader who has kept us

focused and on track, delivering key content about honey bees throughout the season. She was instrumental in leading this class as well as getting it going. Our core group consisted of Kief Scheifler (the class was Kief's idea), Jerry Haygood, P.N. and Evelyn Williams, and myself. There were other club members who helped in the apiary.

Recently, we wrapped up our final Zoom class, and surveyed our student beekeepers on how well we did. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, so we count this year as a success, having helped about ten new beekeepers navigate the ins and outs of the first year of beekeeping. Our hope is to improve and offer this course again in 2022. Perhaps next year we'll include bees as part of the curriculum to ensure student beekeepers can get their hives set up. This course was conceived as an extension of the short courses that many local clubs already offer. Picking up where they end, our long course begins in spring when students get their first bees, and takes them through summer and into fall, when bees are getting ready for winter.

This class was a great experience for the instructors as well as the students. I walked away with the knowledge that I know more than I thought, and that it is sometimes difficult for me to educate a new beekeeper about bees without overwhelming them. I do remember those feelings of fear, inadequacy, and apprehension with my first hives.

Will the class of 2022 be more successful the next time around? And how many of our students from 2021 will continue into 2022 and become active in their bee clubs? *Time will tell!* 🍯



Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship In Action

by **Deb DeWitt**, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School is the past recipient of the Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship, which the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association offers once per year. Awarded in December 2019, the apiary was set up and bees were installed in March of 2020. The setting for the apiary, **Jackson Park Farm**, is an urban, inner-city Atlanta agricultural program located on the rooftop of Maynard Jackson High School. Sitting at the intersection of Grant, Ormewood and Glenwood Parks, it is a real-life farm.


In early 2020, as the apiary was anticipating the arrival of bees, COVID-19 became a serious concern around the world. The bees arrived on Friday the 13th of March—the day that Atlanta Public Schools formally shut down all city schools.

Given the uncertainty of the moment, setting up the hives that day with environmental science teacher Andrea Stephens was surreal. Taking it in stride, Andrea kept the garden going and small groups of students safely stayed involved, with support from One Love Learning Foundation, Center Parc Credit Union, Slow Food Atlanta, and Captain Planet Foundation.

Throughout the 17 months her school was closed, Andrea worked with students to encourage biodiversity and understanding of the importance of honey bees in food production. This summer, Jackson Park Farms helped feed the Maynard Jackson cluster by providing healthy vegetables for families that were food insecure. Working with the non-profit Defend Southern Food Foundation, an initiative founded by Chef Kevin Gillespie, the farm's produce helped to provide over 1000 meals per week to Atlanta Public Schools families in need.

Jackson Park Farm students are on a mission to do good. The Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship has allowed their urban farm to be part of the solution. They fully embrace the idea of urban beekeepers saving the world and state: “While the world worried about personal health and safety, we continued to care for the bees — and they cared for us.”

Apply for 2022 Scholarships Now

*MABA is now accepting applications for the 2022 Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship. The scholarship is open to school or civic organizations in the Atlanta area who would like to establish an apiary. **The deadline for application is November 15. Find out more here.*** 



Photos courtesy of Jackson Park Farm Facebook page.

HONEY BEES AS A TEACHING TOOL

by *Dr. Jörg Mayer,*
UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary education is becoming more and more complex, but the ultimate goal – providing an education that will prepare students for entry-level positions in the profession – remains the same. Often, hands-on work with living animals aimed at achieving core competencies is relegated to the final year of the veterinary curriculum. Incorporating honey bees allows the introduction of these important concepts during earlier years of veterinary student training. In addition, honey bees are under severe threat from a multitude of health problems, and this has dire implications for our own food supply.

Veterinarians need to be actively involved in addressing this health crisis. Ever since the US FDA implemented its Veterinary Feed Directive rule, which dictates how certain antimicrobials can legally be administered in the feed or water of food-producing animals, and made changes to its policy on the use of medically necessary antimicrobials on bees, honey bees have fallen under the direct purview of veterinarians, highlighting the need for greater literacy in honey bee health. **The present manuscript** describes reasons why and ways how honey bees can play a larger role in the education of veterinarians in the United States.

Honey bee medicine should be included in veterinary curricula for two reasons: apiaries can be used to expose veterinary students to important clinical competencies, and veterinary expertise is needed to improve honey bee health. Working with honey bees provides a great teaching opportunity for veterinary students during all four years of their training and exposes future veterinarians to their role in maintaining honey bee health. Armed with an exposure to and education in honey bee medicine during their veterinary training, future veterinarians will be able to treat a house call to an apiary with the same level of comfort and expertise they would bring to any other house call, whether for a pet or a farm animal. 🐝

The photos at left are
taken from a video
about UGA's veterinary
beekeeping program.
Watch the video [here](#).



Read Dr. Mayer's paper about how honey bees can play a larger role in veterinary education.

Girls Who Game... *With Honey Bees!*

by **Andrea D. Wright**, STEM Coordinator DeKalb County School District

Dell Technologies and Microsoft developed the Girls Who Game (GWG) program as an initiative that focuses on increasing young girls' access to technology to prepare them for success in a digital world focused on building global competencies and computational thinking.

During the month of June 2021, DeKalb County School District's **CTAE/STEM Department** and **Fernbank Science Center** partnered to launch a summer version of the **Girls Who Game program**. Middle school girls between the ages of 10 to 13 from various DeKalb County schools were provided an opportunity to participate in the program. The students were challenged with redesigning four separate Fernbank exhibits. To educate visitors about the importance of honey bees to our community, one stellar group of girls, GWG Team 1, focused on reimagining the center's honey bee exhibit by using Minecraft Education.

Since 2004, Fernbank Science Center has had a honey bee exhibit with an observation beehive. The observation hive is a typical four frame hive, oriented vertically – a configuration that allows visitors to view both sides of all four frames. Bees are not distracted by bright lights so, using flashlights or cell phones, visitors are able to see various colors of pollen, newly laid eggs, and larvae at various stages of development.

GWG Team 1 observed the exhibit, researched honey bees, and heard from local experts Terry Wierman, Fernbank Science Center Beekeeper, and Gina Gallucci, President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. With guidance from the experts, the team used Minecraft Education to build a model of a bee displaying its life cycle; a photo booth where visitors can mimic the honey bee's waggle dance and take pictures of themselves; a cross section of a beehive where visitors can learn facts about honey bees; and a Bee's Knees store that sells local honey, honey-based products, as well as plants that attract honey bees. Additional images of the virtual world GWG Team 1 constructed for their honey bee are displayed.

All teams presented their ideas to a panel of community stakeholders who provided feedback on how to improve their designs. A final community showcase took place on the last day of the program for the girls to share their designs and celebrate their successes. 🍯



Georgia National Fair 2021 Honey Show Results



The 2021 Georgia National Fair Honey Show is in the books! Thanks to all of those beekeepers who came out and participated, and congratulations to all of the winners. Special nods to **Virginia Webb** who took home prizes in *fifteen* (15!?!) different categories and \$960 in prize money. Also, congratulations to **Georgia Zumwalt** who won *BOTH* major divisions – the Black Jar contest and Best in Show – and took home over \$2,200 in prize money! 🍯



For a PDF of complete results from GNAF 2021 Honey Show, [click here.](#)

BRAVES BEES SAFE AT HOME

by **Brian Grant**, *Grant Boys Honey*



As a family, we try to catch a few Braves games each year. On June 2nd, we were there early waiting for the gates to open. We entered on the third base side and proceeded down to the outfield area looking to catch a ball during batting practice. Once we were over near the Braves bullpen, I noticed a lot of insects flying around the stands to the left of the foul pole. I told my wife I thought they were bees and she gave me that look like, “You’re crazy! Those aren’t bees.”

I proceeded to go down to the area and determined that they were honey bees. After a few minutes sharing my swarm catching experiences with the grounds crew and operations staff, they allowed me to make suggestions on how to get the bees to calm down and hopefully remove them.

The grounds crew stated that players from the visiting Nationals noticed the bee swarm coming across the field just prior to the gates opening and they stayed in the left field seats. Bees started landing in various groups and I asked the grounds crew to help me find any clusters in hopes of finding the queen. After a few minutes, I found a cluster under one of the seats about the size of a baseball. I sifted through it and found the queen in the middle. Since I didn’t have any equipment with me, I asked the grounds crew to find me a box and the plan was to place the queen inside and hope the bees would follow. They brought out a cardboard box, so I placed the queen and a handful of bees inside. When bees started to land on the seat cup holder, I propped the box with the opening on the cup holder to encourage the bees to go in the box.

After about an hour, the bees started to calm down and they were not flying as much. The game started on time and we waited until the game was over to see if all the bees were in the box. After the game was over, I was able to place the box in a trash bag for a short time to transport the bees home.

Back at the house, the box was taken out of the bag and the bees were transferred into a nuc box the next morning. The “Braves Bees” continue to do well at our house. I now refer to the section of seats in the left hand corner of the stadium as “the beehive.” 🐝

Watch the Braves swarm video and learn more about Grant Boys Honey on YouTube.



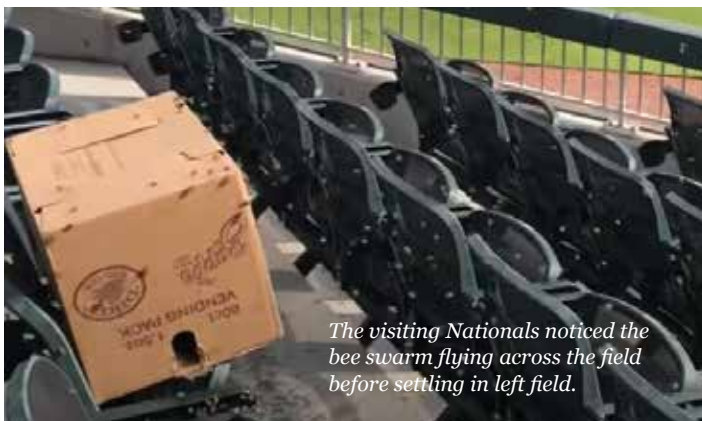
By the third inning the Braves made a jersey for me that said “Beekeeper” on the back



After the game, I was able to place the box in a trash bag for transport.



I went back the next day to a game and they did some interviews and had me on the broadcast.



The visiting Nationals noticed the bee swarm flying across the field before settling in left field.



The Braves bees are now safe at home!



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Building A Top Bar Feeder

by Dan Long

I've been helping the State Botanical Garden of Georgia with their honey bees. They have a standard ten frame Langstroth and a top bar hive. In the course of inspecting the hives, we discuss feeding. Entrance feeding is often a bad idea, so I decided on frame feeders. The Langstroth got a standard frame feeder.

Top bar hive frame feeders aren't readily available because the dimensions vary from one hive to the next. On one of the inspections, I measured the depth of the hive and the angle of the sides. They also loaned me a spare top bar to take back to my shop. In order to get a decent volume, I chose the width of two bars plus the spacer bars used at the honey end of the hive to maximize the potential volume of the feeder. I ripped down a few half inch boards to a width of 2 ¾ inches. I added a large hole for filling syrup in the long one that would become the top. A few miter cuts, some small nails and Titebond III glue, and I had the feeder. Next, I cut out two pieces of ¼ inch plywood to match the profile and cut a small slot near the top of one as an entrance for the bees.

The biggest challenge in this design was to create a ladder, which minimizes drowning. A typical frame feeder ladder goes in through the top, but that wouldn't work in a top bar hive. So instead, I devised a tube out of #8 hardware cloth as tall as the insides, closed at top and bottom, with a side port that matches the slot. Long term, this will fill up with debris, but it should work for a year. I glued and nailed it together then poured spar urethane inside and rolled it around to seal it. It holds a gallon of syrup and fits the hive beautifully. My next version of this feeder will include an improved ladder I just designed and 3-D printed. 🍯



Above: Dan's first ladder (left) was fashioned from hardware cloth. A 3-D printed ladder (right) will be an upgrade for future feeders.



In order to maximize the potential volume of the feeder, Dan decided to design and build it the width of two bars plus the spacer bars used at the honey end of the hive.

Another Sweet Day at East Georgia State College

by *Paul Cerpovicz*

On September 9, East Georgia State College (EGSC) hosted its second Honey Extraction Party! Members of EGSC's Beekeeping Club, along with other students, faculty, staff, and community members, met to learn more about honey and how it is made. The week before the extraction event, student members took honey off the campus beehives. For most of the members, this was their first time pulling honey, and for others, their first time even working with bees. All the students said they really enjoyed the experience!

The honey frames, which were stored in a freezer, then thawed for a few days in a dry room, were extracted the next week. Extraction equipment was brought to the campus and set up in the rotunda outside the college auditorium. About 30 people were present for the event, and nearly everyone lent a hand uncapping frames, loading, and spinning the extractor, and straining the honey.

About 70 pounds of honey were collected from EGSC's Bobcat Apiary. Everyone was able to sample the honey and take a small jar of it home. The consensus was that the honey was delicious! Most of the campus honey will be bottled in small jars to give out as free samples at various local events.

East Georgia State College has maintained an apiary on its Swainsboro, Ga. campus since 2015. In 2016, the college became a Bee Campus USA® affiliate, and, in 2019, a student beekeeping club was organized. The goal of the campus and the club is to promote an increased awareness for honey bees and other pollinators, and to learn how to protect them and their habitats. To help achieve these goals, club members visit local schools and participate in many campus and community events. An observation hive is used to transport and display honey bees, and wildflower seed packages and information are handed out. Thanks to generous support from the local Mill Creek Foundation, club members were able to create gift bags for various age groups containing pollinator-themed educational books and items. Pollinator-friendly basil plants grown by club members in the campus greenhouse are also distributed to members of the community.

EGSC and its beekeeping club members are very grateful for previous support from the Georgia Beekeepers Association Buzz Fund to help grow its apiary. It would also like to thank the Mill Creek Foundation, whose support allowed the club to add additional hives to its Bobcat Apiary and purchase equipment and supplies to install campus and community wildflower gardens, as well as purchase pollinator-themed educational books and materials to distribute to school groups and other members of the community.

Since becoming a Bee Campus USA® affiliate, East Georgia State College has continually increased its efforts to promote honey bee and pollinator education.

The honey extraction party was a fun and educational way to help reach these goals and we hope to continue with events such as this in the future! 🍯



Above (top to bottom): East Georgia State College students collecting honey from a campus beehive. EGSC Beekeeping Club member, LaFredrick Gilchrist, uncapping a frame of honey. Club members, Atesa Fryson (back) and Anita Cerpovicz showing visitors from the community how to uncap honey cells.

2021 HONEY BEE JAMBOREE

by **Kathy Bourn**

What happens when you get all the GBA beekeeping clubs in Northeast Georgia together? *Well, just about anything's possible!*

The seven beekeeping clubs from the Northeast Georgia region gathered in October for the 2021 Honey Bee Jamboree. Dan Long, President of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers, arranged for the use of a big pavilion at Pittard Park in Winterville. Dan is also working to set up a community honey house there with a commercial kitchen and new honey extracting equipment (stay tuned for updates on that).

Georgia Zumwalt organized the Northeast Georgia Best Tasting Honey contest. The entries were the three top winners from each club's black jar contests. Mike Conner's (*inset*

below) honey was judged the best of the best.

The Jamboree also included donated door prizes, food for all, and demonstrations of various types of hives. It was also great to have students from the University of Georgia's Veterinary School join us.

Each year, the highlight of the day is the beekeeping trivia contest officiated by Bobby Chaisson, the GBA director for the Northeast region. It demonstrates how much each club knows (*or thinks they know!*) about honey bees and beekeeping. Tri-County and Lake Hartwell tied for first place, but Tri-County's team (*below right*) took home the trophy by knowing how many members GBA now has (it's 940 by the way). It was a beautiful day for some beekeeper fun. 🍯



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Altamaha Beekeeping Association

The Altamaha Beekeeping Association held a honey tasting and honey competition at their monthly meeting on October 4th in Vidalia, GA. The honey tasting included nine varieties of honey to sample provided by club members. The varieties in the tasting included buckwheat, blueberry, palmetto, mountain wildflower, citrus, orange blossom, sourwood, tupelo, and gallberry. **Jim Rich** was able to pick five of the nine flavors. The club gave him a GBA T-shirt for guessing the most correctly.

There were four entries for best-tasting honey and the winning honey was provided by **Wes Chapman** and **Abigail Embry**. It

came out of a flow hive and *this is their first year as beekeepers!* The grand prize was a pair of earbuds. Everyone really enjoyed tasting different types of honey and it opened up good discussion within the group. The club plans to hold the tasting and competition annually.

Next month's meeting will be a dinner and a movie potluck with **Karen Palmer** doing a QA session after a showing of her video "Beekeeping on the Cheap." Altamaha Beekeeping Association meets at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 1512 Meadows Lane, in Vidalia every 1st Monday of the month at 6 pm. 🍯



Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	Gabeepresident@gmail.com	404-519-4141
Derrick Fowler	Vice President	Gabeevp@gmail.com	678-449-6203
Georgia Zumwalt	Secretary	gabeeseecretary@gmail.com	770-595-4187
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabeetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	blueskyhoney@live.com	706-540-4166
Kelley Campbell	Metro Atlanta	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	678-230-4860
Mike Conner	Metro Atlanta	mike.a.conner@gmail.com	770-815-3046
Brutz English	Central Georgia	brutzenglish@gmail.com	770-843-2110
Emily Heath	Southwest Georgia	Emilyheath@windstream.net	478-951-0879
Karen Palmer	Southeast Georgia	honeyplease007@gmail.com	912-678-2144
Monica Sheppard	Northwest Georgia	monicashep@comcast.net	706-767-7779
BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Peter Helfrich	Newsletter Editor	peterghelfrich@yahoo.com	404-642-2923
Kathleen Bourn	Newsletter Editor	kathleenbourn@gmail.com	404-219-7200
Harvest Hoffman	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	
Linda Tillman	Past President	gbapastpresident@gmail.com	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	jbee@uga.edu	706-247-2575

Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall, 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6:00pm	In-person	Nov. 1	Potluck Dinner and a Movie: <i>Beekeeping On The Cheap</i> , Karen Palmer	grnhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Toombs
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office 298 Academy Ave., Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm				marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Mt. Zion Baptist Church 1036 North Main Street 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	In-person	Nov. 13	Holiday Dinner – Moose Lodge (Live) Annual Meeting and Elections (Come with your mite test results)	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		Nov. 9	<i>Hive Types</i> , Dan Long	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6:00pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weeksworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Kiokee Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 5701 White Oak Rd Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm				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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Clayton Homestead Canton, GA 30114	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble	via Zoom	Nov. 11		etowahrivereekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Nov. 5	Holiday dinner / elections (No meeting in December - see you in January!)	kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Fair Bridge Inn Express Valley Drive Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm	via Zoom			henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences 4182 Forsyth Rd. Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)	via Zoom		New findings of ongoing Varroa mite research at University of Georgia, Dr. Keith Delaplane	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm				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	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm			no meetings until Jan 2022 due to Covid and Holidays	secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm	In-person	Nov. 11	SOWEGA Beekeepers Club 2021 Honey Show	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers	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	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm				bjpete7731@att.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.*

🐝 Plants for Bees: “Miss Huff” Lantana 🐝

This plant has been in my family’s garden for years. It is so prolific that we jokingly call it “the garden slut.” Every year I notice a wide variety of pollinators, from butterflies to hummingbirds, taking advantage of its bounty. Even our honey bees manage to get what they need from Miss Huff – not just from the flowers but also from the berries. An added bonus is that it blooms and sets berries in the fall.

Lantanas produce berries that are often blamed for sickening people or animals. However, when the berry is ripe and a deep blue, they have a sweet center. As you can see, honey bees will suck that juice up just like it was nectar. In fact, they will often bypass the flower for the ripe berries.

If you do plant Miss Huff, be warned! Give her plenty of room and know that she’ll go anywhere she likes. But your pollinators will love you for it. 🍯



Photos by Kathy Bourn

“Miss Huff” Lantana (*Lantana camara*)

The most cold hardy lantana known - established clumps have survived temperatures as low as 0°F. An excellent choice for mass plantings, along hillsides, and in patio containers. Showy orange and pink flowers cycle during the warm season. Evergreen in mild winter regions; treat as an annual in cold winter regions.

SIZE: Quickly reaches 4-6 ft. tall and wide; larger in mild climates

ZONE: 7 to 11

SUN: Full sun

WATER: Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers

MAINTENANCE: Low

BLOOM TIME: Spring through summer; nearly year-round in frost-free regions

FLOWER: Orange, yellow and pink. Fragrant and long bloom season

ATTRACTS: Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds

Please...



Share Your Club’s Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club’s return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker’s name and topic, and when and where you’ll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🍯

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
gbnewsletters@gmail.com



Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'T is the season of gratitude and gift giving with our loved ones. Some of my favorite gifts have been bee related and they are in every room of my house. This year, you can share the gift of the bees by giving a beekeeping short course, contributing to the GBA Buzz Fund and/or giving a GBA Save the Honey Bee license plate to your loved ones.

This time of year also brings changes to leadership in many local bee clubs throughout Georgia. *Welcome to all of the new officers!* We wish you the best and our directors are here to help you. Let them know what you need to help make your volunteer time both fun and productive.

In this issue of *Spilling the Honey*, we have some terrific articles by Linda Tillman and Kathy Bourn. I know you will enjoy them as much as I have. I hope you will make some time this holiday season to catch up on back issues you may have not had time to read in past months.

Looking ahead to the new year, our **Georgia Beekeepers Association spring conference will be held February 18-19, 2022, in Macon, Georgia.** Look for registration to open in January. Hint: *You could be a great Secret Santa by paying for a conference registration for that someone special this year!*

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

What are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in around \$100,000 a year from license plate sales. When Gail Dean started working with the legislature to bring about this bill, the GBA officers and the legislative committee wanted to get these funds to support beekeeping education in Georgia.

The best way for that to happen is if local clubs ask for the money to support their projects!

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members.

- 1. APPLY to get your club speaker fees paid with license plate funds** - this is the most direct educational application of the funds
- 2. APPLY to start a beekeeping training program** - to support your club's Beekeeping 101 course or to support a junior beekeeping program.
- 3. APPLY to set up a club apiary** for the training of your members through ongoing hive inspections or to educate the public about bees.
- 4. APPLY to support the purchase of equipment to make your educational meetings run more smoothly** - a computer and projector for your club meetings, a Z-kit to allow you to have speakers from far away speak to your club using a GBA Zoom account.
- 5. APPLY to help your club put on any kind of program or project that will help to educate your members to be better beekeepers.**

AND APPLYING is EASY. Dan Long who has applied for many grants for his Eastern Piedmont club says, "Applying takes only about 15 minutes and is really easy."

The form is a Wufoo form that you fill out online. **Here is a link to the form.** The questions are simple and quick to answer. You do have to answer some important questions to support your request.

These are:

1. Who will benefit from this grant?
2. What are the educational benefits of this grant?
3. Provide an itemized list of the costs

Aside from your name and address, that is about it.

We encourage your club to come up with projects that can be funded by the license plate and **APPLY, APPLY, APPLY**. There is no limit as to how often you can apply and the funds are there for GBA to use.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🐝

TIP:

If you have a BEE license plate on your car and are relocating from one Georgia county to another, you do not have to give up that BEE tag! The state can simply transfer your tag to your new county.



Useful links for local club presidents

- To request a Zoom meeting using the GBA Zoom accounts, **CLICK HERE.** (You may use Zoom for club meetings, board meetings, hive inspections, discussion groups, meetings with your director, etc.)
- To see the "card catalog" of videos available to show to your club to use as a program when you don't have a live speaker, **CLICK HERE.**
- To learn how to request funds from GBA's License Plate Proceeds committee for educational projects, **CLICK HERE.**
- To find out how to get a Z-kit for hybrid meetings with some people in-person and others on Zoom, **email Jonathan Hayes.**
- To update your club information with your new officers for 2021, **CLICK HERE.**
- To update your club's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**


Positives Pandemic


by **Linda Tillman**, GBA Past-President


What a difficult time we have lived in for the last 22 months! With the possible upcoming arrival of the Omicron variant, there may still be more ahead of us.


This pandemic has brought so many losses – deaths of people we know and love, the gatherings we are used to, conferences with hugs and connections, and, for most beekeepers, at least a year or more of in-person club meetings.


I've been trying to make myself look for what has been gained in the pandemic for beekeepers. I'm going to share some of what I have gained in hopes that you will make your own list:

 I've gotten to be better friends with my phone. Its ability to be a camera is so valuable for me as a beekeeper. I decided to video all of my hive inspections in 2020 and most of them in 2021 and provided that video for Zoom discussion on Saturdays following the inspection. It was a fascinating way to "run" a hive inspection. And as a side benefit, more people could come to the inspection. Generally, in person we limit participation to eight, so everyone can see. But many more than that can participate on Zoom, and still get up close to the bees.


 Attendance at other bee meetings has been so easy. When clubs were meeting by Zoom, visiting the meeting of another bee club was as simple as signing into their Zoom meeting - much easier than driving 80 - 100 miles or more. I've even attended meetings of the **Connecticut Beekeepers Association**, the **Michigan Beekeepers Association**, and some others.

 The Alabama Cooperative Extension has provided (and still is offering) **an ongoing series of online lectures about beekeeping**. I've been to many and have heard speakers that one doesn't often hear in person. The upcoming schedule (*see box at right*) offers fascinating topics in the next few months.


 I've been intensely connected with my bees. Because of so much time at home, my bees have benefited. I am constantly watching the hives and more involved and attentive to their needs.


 I was invited to give a talk on cooking with honey to the Tara bee club. But the meeting was going to be on Zoom. "Just try to be Rachael Ray," said Mary Cahill-Roberts in her invitation to me. I felt challenged to say the least, but then videoed the creation of a full honey-based meal from cocktail to appetizer to dessert, using my phone camera in my tiny kitchen. It was great fun and I learned even more about my phone. *Mostly I learned that I am a far cry from*

Rachael Ray! But I did have fun and learned how to film cooking with honey.

 While it's great to meet in person or share a meal while a committee makes decisions, having committee meetings on Zoom has been so convenient, especially when the members live all over the state. And many clubs have had board meetings from the convenience of their homes. This can continue after the pandemic has calmed.

Going forward, we can take what has been learned in pandemic beekeeping and continue to make use of it.

 I plan to watch for opportunities to hear speakers, like those provided by ACES and by the Connecticut Beekeepers, on Zoom.

 GBA has developed a fantastic library of videos available to club presidents to show at meetings to members when you need a program.

 And, now that so many of us are experienced with virtual technology, we have a way in the future to allow people to participate in club meetings and GBA who might not otherwise be able to. 🍯

Alabama Cooperative Extension

2021 Dates and Topics

- July 27 – **The Honey Bee Digestive System**
 - Tom Webster, Kentucky State University
- August 31 – **Recognizing and Mitigating Queen Events**
 - Jamie Ellis, University of Florida
- September 28 – **Varroa**
 - Dan Aurell, Auburn University
- October 26 – **Pollinating Partnerships Among Bee Species**
 - Keith Delaplaine, University of Georgia
- November 30 – **TBA**
 - Alexandria Payne, Texas A&M University

2022 Dates and Topics

- January 25 – **The Many Facets of Honey Bee Nutrition**
 - Priya Chakrabarti, Mississippi State University
- February 22 – **Integrated Pest Management In The Hive**
 - Cameron Jack, University of Florida
- March 29 – **Methods For Controlling Varroa That Work**
 - Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia
- April 26 – **How To Make Great Queens and Avoid Poor Ones**
 - David Tarpy, North Carolina State University
- May 31 – **TBA**
 - Frank Rinkevich, USDA ARS
- June 28 – **TBA**
 - Katherine Parvs, USDA ARS

EAVESDROPPING ON INSECTS

by *Kathy Bourn*

We can get a vague idea of the number and variety of insects around us by just looking at our gardens or yards. But what if there was an easier, and more accurate way of monitoring the insect activity around us... *by listening?*

As part of the COP26 climate summit held last month in Glasgow, Scotland, the technology company AgriSound developed an innovative listening device. The system uses complex microphones and sound analysis to identify the type and number of pollinators in a given area. It can also be used inside a beehive to enable real-time monitoring of colony productivity and health. The sensors can help determine whether the bees are stressed or simply performing routine hive activities.

AgriSound's goal is to deploy listening devices across the world and transform how people monitor insect activity. Farmers, public gardens, beekeepers and scientists can all use this real-time data in their work. 🐝



GBA 2021 ARTISAN SHOW

ARTISAN SHOW RECIPES

Recipes from the 2021 GBA Spring Artisan Show will be featured each month in *Spilling the Honey*.

FRIED HONEYCOMB

By Virginia Webb

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 4"x4" block of honeycomb cut into ½"-2/3" squares
- 4 egg whites, slightly beaten
- ½ C corn starch
- 1 ½ C shredded coconut
- Vegetable oil for deep frying

INSTRUCTIONS:

After you cut the honeycomb block into small squares, let drain for several minutes. Place on waxed paper and hard freeze for at least 2 hours.

Have 3 bowls each for egg whites, cornstarch and coconut. Heat vegetable oil to 400F.

In this order, take each honeycomb square and roll into corn starch, dip in egg whites and the roll into coconut. Frying in small batches, drop each honeycomb square into deep fryer. Let fry for only 20-30 seconds. Remove and let cool and dry. Wrap individually



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Teri Meyer

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Teri Meyer began beekeeping when her husband brought home honey from a friend's hives. They discussed the idea of getting bees. "Would you want bees?" Teri's husband asked her. She said, "No," but in 2014, they got hives and started beekeeping. Now Teri is the main beekeeper in the family, and usually keeps between four and eight hives.

Teri has two children, a son 24 and a daughter 22. Her son likes the honey but, although he is a brave United States

Marine, he won't go near a hive! On the other hand, Taryn, her daughter, is interested in beekeeping and is willing to go into a hive and talk about bees with anyone.

For Teri, the bees are fascinating. "After all," she says, "A beekeeper will drive two hours to buy a bug when they need a new queen!" Teri really likes learning and finds the bees extremely interesting. When she got started, she had no idea about all the science there is to know about bees.

(continued on the page)



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

And Teri likes to read and do the research. She works at a veterinarian's office and is often asked to do the research on difficult cases that come in for appointments. She especially likes bee nutrition and is considering getting certified in vet nutrition.

Teri is a very active member of the Forsyth Beekeepers. One of the things she most likes about her local club is serving as a mentor to new beekeepers. She has helped the club by trying to work on mentor meetings for new beekeepers. She was vice-president of the club in 2016, president of the club in 2017 and now is running for VP again. In a huge project for Forsyth, she has transitioned the club to the Wild Apricot software platform. She puts out the club's newsletter. She works with Ann Shelton on the hospitality committee for the Forsyth club, serving treats at bee school and at the holiday dinners.

Teri's willingness to give and the energy she is willing to share were evident a few years ago when GBA was holding our fall meeting in Forsyth County. We needed to train volunteers to register people attending the conference and Teri stepped up in big ways. She found a place for us to meet (the veterinarian practice where she works), and when we gathered there, Teri had cooked and baked delicious brunch items for all of us.

In addition to hosting the registration training for GBA, Teri has volunteered for GBA in so many other ways. She helped check in the attendees when the conference was in Forsyth and helped with registration again this year in Gainesville. She served as a runner for the honey show. She organized the cookie bake for the conference in Forsyth and baked over 300 cookies herself, including some delicious rosemary sugar cookies that were so, so good.

At the fall 2021 GBA conference, she helped with set up and take down. She stuffed bags for the attendees, helped hand them out, set up the registration, and helped manage the registration. Most importantly, she saved the day when it was time for honey ice cream. Bobby Chaisson says they would still be there trying to scoop if Teri hadn't had the bright idea to cut the very frozen ice cream into slabs to make it easier to serve.

Teri's cooking skills are a highlight for the members of Forsyth Beekeepers. She often receives requests from club members to bake her apple cake, to make her banana pudding, and to create hummingbird cake. She always makes bee-themed cupcakes for the bee school attendees. Once she found out that a bee school attendee was having

a birthday on the very day of bee school. For the new beekeeper, Teri made a very special cake, complete with honeycombed icing (*inset photo*).



Teri says, "I would not be the beekeeper I am today without the help of experienced beekeepers. I like to give back by helping new beekeepers myself." She said, "I believe that you get out of something what you put into it. The more I help people, the more I get. Helping makes me feel good."

Teri had no idea that she would be so active and be such an involved volunteer in the beekeeping community. "Who knew it would be so much fun? It's such a fun adventure!"

Teri's version of volunteer energy is part of the enormous amount of volunteer energy that fuels the daily functioning of GBA. Thank you, Teri! 🐝



SWEATER WEATHER

Whether or not you wear sweaters when temperatures dip (sweater weather), we all know the tradition of wearing holiday sweaters. Some of us even hold annual ugly Christmas sweater contests. Some treasure family traditions with holiday sweaters. Others work all year to make the perfect sweater gifts. As beekeepers, we have our own versions of the sweaters we like to wear (or give) this time of year. 🐝



WHAT FLAVOR ARE YOU?

by **Kathy Bourn**

As beekeepers we all know that honey has a wide range of flavors. Everything from alfalfa to wildflower. After spending a few years around other beekeepers, I've discovered that we have flavors too. Here are a few that I've noticed. You might recognize yourself in this list or have a few observations of your own.

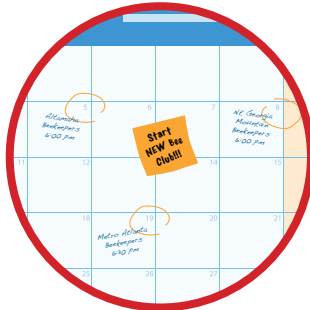


THE SCIENCE SIFTER

- You are the beekeeper who not only combs through all the scientific papers but you actually check the footnotes.
- You know how to correctly pronounce all the big words.
- You're always saying "somebody should research that" and you keep a running list of ideas.

THE CLUB COLLECTOR

- You are the beekeeper who belongs to three or more clubs and actually goes to all the meetings.
- You have started a club either for real, or just in your head, thinking, "If I started a club I would . . ."
- You've taken items that you've won at one club and donated them to another club for their raffle.



THE OBSESSED OBSERVER

- You are the beekeeper who has a chair in front of your hives because you're there so often watching your bees (and maybe you have a table too for your coffee).
- You see and hear bees when nobody else does (and because of this, people think you might be having a stroke).

- You've clocked more than 20 minutes watching just one bee.
- You dream about (or already have) the perfect observation hive.

THE MEETING MANIAC

- You are the beekeeper who is an officer in the club; you bring the snacks; you set out the raffle items; and you clean up at the end of the meeting.
- You rarely hear the speaker



because you're running around doing stuff or thinking about what needs to be done next.

- You are the keeper of all the club crap (name tags, handouts, raffle items, coffee supplies, etc.)

THE BEE BUILDER

- You are the beekeeper who has a collection of homemade beekeeping gadgets *that may or may not work as designed*.
- You build your own hives and are always thinking about how to make them better (because they can always be better).
- For you, having bees is just an excuse to build stuff.
- You've looked through the supply catalogs and said, "I can build that for half the price." And usually you can build it... but not always for half the price.
- You've looked at an object and said, "I wonder if bees would live in that."



THE BOTANIST BEEKEEPER

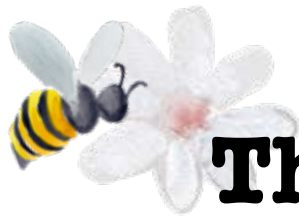
- You are the beekeeper who won't plant anything unless you've first asked, "Do the bees like it?"
- You know both the common and the botanical name of plants and you can pronounce them correctly.
- When you see a perfectly manicured lawn, all you see is a pollinator desert.

THE TEACHER TALKER

- You are the beekeeper who is addicted to the look on the face of someone you've just introduced to the world of the honey bee.
- You have either an article of clothing or an accessory that professes your love of honey bees.
- Your non-beekeeper co-workers, family, and friends know not to ask you about bees unless they have a couple hours to kill.



If you recognize yourself as one or more of these beekeeper flavors, don't worry. Just go to your next club meeting and feel good hanging out with your Beeples. 🐝



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: The Beeswax Steamer

by Jonathan Hayes

What a mess! Every time I used my solar wax melter, I would end up with a huge mess to clean up. I would always run into problems like wax overflowing the pan and spilling into the bottom of the wax melter or ants getting into my hot wax and becoming part of my finished wax block, just to come back and haunt me later. Then there is the slum gum that has to be cleaned off and discarded. I could go on and on about the solar wax melter I bought and how I had so much trouble using it, but let's leave it at that. Needless to say, I was on the hunt to find a better solution without spending thousands of dollars to buy a commercial grade wax melter.

In my search I stumbled upon a couple of YouTube videos with some homemade wax melters either over a fire pit or run by propane burners, which to me was a great idea but not hands-off enough for me. So I went to the drawing board and came up with the Beeswax Steamer. I started with a turkey fryer with an integrated spout, a Stanley wallpaper steamer, and a five-gallon paint strainer. I modified the handle part of the steamer to attach through a hole on the lid of the turkey fryer pot. Then I placed the paint strainer on the inner basket of the fryer. *That's it.* With a little bit of water in the pot and a bucket to catch it, and you're all set. Open the spout on the pot, turn the steamer on and your wax will come right out into your bucket, *clean*. Repeat the process by placing your melted wax block from your bucket back into the melter, melt again and the resulting wax is *very, very clean*.

I have been using this wax melter for three years now and had the chance to demo this

at the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association's November meeting. Although I did not melt wax at the meeting, I could have because it only takes an hour to melt the wax from either a solid block or frozen cappings from the freezer. I just didn't want to drive home with a bucket of hot wax in the car! Nothing like a full day of melting wax in a solar wax melter, then letting it cool overnight outside.

Some tips when melting:

1. Melt wax in an area that has little wind to reduce the chance of the spout clogging with cold wax. If this happens just heat the spout and it will start flowing again.
2. Record the amount of time it takes your steamer to run out of water on first use to avoid burning up the heating element. This way you know when to unplug your steamer or refill it with water to melt more wax.
3. Protect your floor, if using the melter inside, to protect the floor from wax splattering on it.
4. Replace the paint strainer each time to reduce slum gum build up.
5. Add a gadget or place a brick on top to create a good seal on the pot.

This has to be one of the best ways I have found to melt wax without worry. Clean up is simple – just throw out the paint strainer and pour out the remaining water in the pot. What little wax is left in the pot will get remelted in your next batch. When everything is dry, place the steamer and cords inside the turkey pot. Everything fits inside the pot, making this melter a compact place to store until next use. 🐝



Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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 **gbaneletters@gmail.com**

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

Forsyth Beekeepers Club long-time member **Hoyt Rogers** passed away on October 26th. Hoyt was a member of FBC since the 1990s. He taught at our bee schools almost every year, was a mentor to many, supplied members with woodenware, and served as club treasurer for more than 17 years. But most of all, he was family.



Hoyt Rogers in 2017 with his award from Forsyth Beekeepers Club for his long service as club treasurer.

Please keep his wife and family in your hearts as they grieve the loss of this wonderful, kind, gentle person. *Hoyt will be missed by all, but never forgotten.* 🍯

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, November 16 at the Fair Bridge Inn Express in Perry. The program consisted of our annual **Black Jar Honey Contest**, which was won by **Joe Santiago**. We also saw a demonstration by **Jonathan Hayes** on his wax melter. Jonathan converted a stainless-steel turkey fryer and a wallpaper steamer into a very unique wax melter. Our next meeting will be December 21. The program will be our annual potluck dinner, election of officers for 2022 and the announcement of our 2021 Beekeeper of the Year. All are welcome to join us at 7 pm. See our website for more information: **hogba.org** 🍯



Jonathan Hayes demonstrates his wax melter. See related story on page 9.



Anita Curry, president, presents Joe Santiago with 1st prize in the black jar honey contest

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	Gabeepresident@gmail.com	404-519-4141
Derrick Fowler	Vice President	Gabeevp@gmail.com	678-449-6203
Georgia Zumwalt	Secretary	gabeeseecretary@gmail.com	770-595-4187
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabebetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	blueskyhoney@live.com	706-540-4166
Kelley Campbell	Metro Atlanta	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	678-230-4860
Mike Conner	Metro Atlanta	mike.a.conner@gmail.com	770-815-3046
Brutz English	Central Georgia	brutzenglish@gmail.com	770-843-2110
Emily Heath	Southwest Georgia	Emilyheath@windstream.net	478-951-0879
Karen Palmer	Southeast Georgia	honeyplease007@gmail.com	912-678-2144
Monica Sheppard	Northwest Georgia	monicashep@comcast.net	706-767-7779
BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Peter Helfrich	Newsletter Editor	peterghelfrich@yahoo.com	404-642-2923
Kathleen Bourn	Newsletter Editor	kathleenbourn@gmail.com	404-219-7200
Harvest Hoffman	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	
Linda Tillman	Past President	gbapastpresident@gmail.com	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	jbee@uga.edu	706-247-2575

Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates 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

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association is grateful to **Brutz English** for his instruction on how to prepare for and enter honey shows. Brutz has vast expertise as a Welsh honey judge and committee chair

for GBA's honey and beeswax shows. He talked about the tips and tricks for producing winning entries but his number one piece of advice was ALWAYS READ THE RULES! 🐝



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

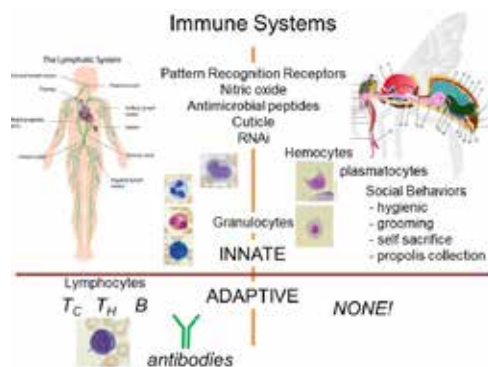
MABA's virtual, one-day beekeeping course will cover all you need to know to get started in beekeeping! Taught by UGA faculty and Master Beekeepers, this virtual course is followed up with access to several hands-on hive inspection visits during the spring and summer months, and includes a one-year bee club membership.

Since the course is virtual again this year, **anyone from anywhere in the state can enroll**. MABA will pay \$35 to your home club (or the club to which you want to belong) if MABA is not your chosen club. That \$35 will cover the dues at most clubs.

Advanced registration is required. **For more information and to register, visit metroatlantabeekeepers.org** 🐝

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

Dr. Cory Momany, Georgia Journeyman beekeeper and faculty member of the college of pharmacy at UGA, presented a talk to the Oglethorpe County bee club focused on the use of RNA interference in treating honey bees for viruses and mites. Unlike humans who have an immune system that can make antibodies, bees have simple immune systems (see the picture). Several scientific studies have demonstrated that bees fed double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecules or inoculated with bacteria that make dsRNA have reduced viral loads and even kill mites. Unfortunately, the cost of the RNA treatments is significant and beyond a reasonable level for beekeepers to adopt the treatments. Dr. Momany presented his preliminary work making the same RNA molecules in bacteria that may offer inexpensive options for treatments. 🐝



Club Meetings*

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. **Please fill out this form (CLICK HERE).**

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall, 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6:00pm				gmhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Toombs
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office 298 Academy Ave., Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm				marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Mt. Zion Baptist Church 1036 North Main Street 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				aron_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				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7:00pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6:00pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
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				cartersvillebeekeepersguild@gmail.com	Bartow
Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers	Locations alternate: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, 3535 South Lumpkin Rd. and GA and the UGA Cooperative Extension office, 420 10th St, Columbus, GA	2nd Monday, 6:00pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm				weekworks@gmail.com	Cherokee
Clark's Hill Beekeepers	Kiokee Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 5701 White Oak Rd Appling, GA 30802	1st Monday of even months, 6:30 pm				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	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6:00pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7:00pm				EPBAPres@gmail.com	Oconee
Effingham County Beekeepers Assoc	Fellowship Bible Church 841 Old Dixie Hwy Springfield, GA 31329	2nd Thursday, 6:30pm				EffinghamBees@gmail.com	Effingham
Ettowah River Beekeepers	Clayton Homestead Canton, GA 30114	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble				etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm				Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Fair Bridge Inn Express Valley Drive Perry, GA 31069	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm				henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				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)

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. **Please fill out this form (CLICK HERE).**

Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm				lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littleriverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	Museum of Arts and Sciences 4182 Forsyth Rd. Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6:00pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm (mentoring, 6:30)				president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6:00pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm				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	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5:00pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7:00pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.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 Association	Cedartown High School 167 Frank Lott Dr Cedartown, GA	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
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Thursday, 6:00pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	416 Hwy 126 Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
Tri-County Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricitybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers	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	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	4th Monday, 6:30pm				bjpete7731@att.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.*



Plants for Bees: Tea Camellia



by **Dan Long**, Master Beekeeper

I moved south from Pennsylvania more than a decade ago and have enjoyed many benefits. Southern hospitality. Great BBQ and not having to shovel snow are among the best! Another benefit is the milder climate. I can grow species of plants that would have to be kept in a greenhouse up north. One of my favorites is *Camellia sinensis*; the Tea Camellia. Yes, it's the plant used to make white, green, oolong and black tea. It can even be used to make sweet tea but I'm from up north, so...

It's a bit slow to establish but makes a medium sized evergreen shrub with glossy, dark green leaves. So far, my planting hasn't had any trouble with pests or diseases. The deer don't even bother it! The blooms appear in October and November here at an elevation of 800 feet. As beekeepers know, bloom time varies by latitude and elevation. Honey bees and other pollinators really love it, especially because little else is blooming this late.

Harvesting it for tea involves nipping off the tips and youngest leaves. It can be done several times each year and doesn't interrupt the flowering at all. The blooms aren't as pretty as many other Camellias but the bees don't mind! For a short video clip to give you a better idea, [click here](#)

I recommend Camellia Forest Nursery, where they are experts, and plants can be shipped directly to you. They have the widest selection of Tea Camellia around. The ones I grow are called Christine's Choice.

It's important to select the right plant, especially if you plan to make tea for yourself. Common names can be misleading so always use the scientific name of a plant when purchasing. There are many plants with Tea in their names and many other Camellias that aren't suitable for making tea (although honey bees still love them). 🍯



Tea Camellia (*Camellia sinensis*)

SIZE: Height: 6 - 15 ft. Width: 4 ft. - 8 ft.

ZONE: 6b, 6a, 7b, 7a, 8b, 8a, 9b, 9a

SUN: Full sun (6 or more hours direct sun per day) or Partial Shade (direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)

CHARACTERISTICS: Broadleaf evergreen, with glossy, leathery dark green leaves

SOIL: Prefers moist soil with good drainage

MAINTENANCE: Low

BLOOM TIME: Fall and winter

FLOWER: 1-1.5 in. white fragrant flowers with 7-8 white or pink tinged petals and yellow stamens. Flowers in the fall to early winter single or in clusters. Flowering starts when plants are about 4 years old.

ATTRACTS: Bees

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🍯

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

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