



Spilling *The* Honey

JANUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of GBA, I wish you all the finest things for this new year – whether they be new friends and family, new apiaries, or new bees.

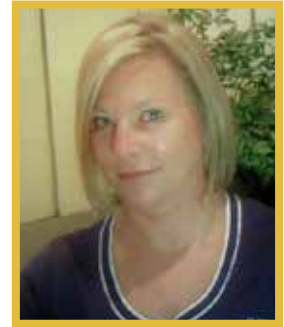
Our GBA conference planning committee is hard at work preparing for our next meeting scheduled for February 18th and 19th in Macon, Georgia. This will be a new location for us and we're looking forward to working with Middle Georgia State University and enjoying the Hatcher Conference Center. Please be on the lookout for registration to open soon.

We welcome all the new leadership within our local clubs across the state. Most of us have elected new officers into terms beginning now. Please watch for an email from GBA so that we can gather all the new officers' names and contact information. Note that there's a list of helpful links for local club presidents on page 3. Also, in the next few weeks, local club presidents will receive a starter package with ideas and plans which you may find useful. And *please* remember to apply for GBA license plate funds for your club's educational initiatives (see pages 2 and 3 of this issue for more information)!

We have another great edition of our *Spilling the Honey* newsletter this month, which includes a look at the work **Tim Doherty** is doing with veterans and bees through Doc's Healing Hives (page 5), a profile of Volunteer of the Month **Kelley Campbell** (page 7), and an exquisite recipe from **Linda Tillman** (page 9). We always love to see new contributors send in photos, ideas and club news to the newsletter editors each month – *keep those articles and photos coming!*

We're looking forward to getting together next month. *Happy new year!* 🍯

– *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

2022 Spring Conference

FEB. 18-19, 2022

ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
Middle Georgia State
University, Macon, GA
For details and to register:
gabeekeeping.com

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

 Dr. Lewis Bartlett Postdoctoral Associate, University of Georgia Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases	 Dr. Keith Delaplaine Director, University of Georgia Honey Bee Program	 Kent Williams Kentucky Master Beekeeper
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LICENSE PLATE FUND REWARDS

by **Dan Long**, President, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

The *Save The Honey Bee* license plate has been a great blessing for our organization! Proceeds from sales of the plates affords the opportunity for clubs all over the state to obtain educational materials and great guest speakers no matter how small the club or the size of its budget. It has also helped our beekeepers by providing resources to beekeeping research institutions. It's their findings

“I encourage every club to apply for grants for club hives, beekeeping books, speakers and anything else you can imagine that’s going to enhance your membership’s beekeeping experience through education.”

that will help us to combat current pests and diseases as well as those to come. The funds are being used to pay for speakers from all over the world, to educate children about honey bees and beekeeping, and to provide opportunities for those incarcerated to learn the skills of the beekeeper –

possibly giving them new opportunities upon release. I just love it when I see one of our *Save the Honey Bee* license plates on the road, knowing there are so many of them and the good they do year after year!

When GBA sought approval for the license plate, we were required to turn in a Use of Funds Statement. It spells out how we would use the funds for junior beekeeping education, paying for expert speakers, funding grants for research, providing supplemental educational support to our clubs and the continuing

support of the Prison Beekeeping Program. There’s actually a state law on the books for our license plate that echoes the statement.

A few people worked very hard to bring this license plate from vision to reality. Many more have helped promote and support it since it was approved. Most were GBA members, beekeepers and volunteers. This effort continues today with individuals and a special committee responsible for getting more plates on the road. The goal is to keep the plate on the road with many cars both as a symbol and for the funding it provides to GBA. It’s no small sum of money! There are thousands of them on the road and GBA receives many thousands of dollars each month from the state.

So many cool things are happening with this money! I encourage every club to apply for grants for club hives, beekeeping books, speakers and anything else you can imagine that’s going to enhance your membership’s beekeeping experience through education. I have applied for many grants through the program. It’s quick and easy to do. **There’s a link in almost every issue** of *Spilling The Honey* and applying takes only minutes. So, think of how you can make your club even better and apply today! 🐝

See more information on applying for license plate funds on the following page. →



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.**

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

by Kelley Campbell

One of the greatest investments you can make in beekeeping is education. Ask any experienced beekeeper and he or she can quickly spout off a list of their “go to” titles to study when starting out, as well as a list of books and journals they look forward to reading through the winter months. But nothing beats interactions with enthusiastic, experienced keepers in your area.

Whether you are curious about beekeeping, or you already keep bees and just want to improve your skills, local clubs offer an unlimited supply of insight into best practices to better your apiary. These events are perfect places to meet others in your area who have overcome the obstacles you are sure to encounter eventually. So, I would strongly encourage everyone to attend a bee school (as a student, or as a mentor!).

(Personal note - I attended every bee school I could find for my first two years, and now I try to volunteer at all that I can. I've never walked away without some sort of deeper understanding of bees, beekeeping, equipment, harvesting honey, etc. to better my beekeeping practices.)

Listed in calendar order (click links for more information):

JANUARY 2022

- Tuesday evenings, Jan. 4 - Feb. 1 in Canton through the [Cherokee Beekeepers Club](#)
- Saturday, January 15, 2022 in Cumming through the [Forsyth Beekeepers Club](#)
- Saturday, January 22, 2022 in Griffin through [Potato Creek Beekeepers Association](#). Call 770-467-4225 to register.
- Saturday, January 29, 2022 through [Coweta Beekeepers Association](#)
- Saturday, January 29, 2022 via Zoom through the [Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association](#)

FEBRUARY 2022

- Saturday, February 12 in Lula through the [Tri-County Beekeepers](#)
- Saturday, February 19 in Jasper through the [Appalachian Beekeepers Association](#)
- Saturday, February 19, 2022 in Canton through the [Etowah River Beekeepers](#)
- Saturday, February 26 in Albany through [Southwest Georgia \(SOWEGA\) Beekeepers](#)

MARCH 2022

- Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Dacula through the [Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County](#)

If your club is offering a bee school that is not listed above, please tell us about it! You may [complete this short form](#), and / or write up a short blurb about what it offers and [e-mail it to our newsletter editors](#) for publication in the next newsletter! 🍯



DOC'S HEALING HIVES

Just What The Doctor Ordered

by Savannah Levins, 11Alive News Reporter

Editor's Note: This story is an excerpt from an 11Alive television news story.

Army veteran Tim Doherty is using his love of beekeeping to help others suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries. Doherty founded **Doc's Healing Hives**, a nonprofit that introduces veterans to beekeeping, helping them heal while they learn to manage their own hives. The mission is personal for Doherty. "I got into beekeeping after serving a tour in Afghanistan as a deputy surgeon for special forces," he said. "Our installation was attacked. You are on the go and have such great purpose, and then you come home and it's just tough to adjust. I didn't want to admit I had PTSD, and I did."

Upon his return home, Doherty said he decided to try beekeeping on what was essentially a whim. "It was just kind of a magical moment," he recalled. "You get drawn into it. Maybe it was just a nudge from God in the right direction. Every time I get into a beehive I forget everything else."



Watch the full 11Alive News video featuring Tim, [click here](#).

Over the last few years, Doherty has taught beekeeping to more than 65 Georgia veterans on his own time and dime.

Beekeeping was recently approved as an official therapy activity at Atlanta's Shepherd Center, which Doherty is helping run in partnership with hospital staff and Livable Buckhead.

"I actually was admitted to the Shepherd Center for mild traumatic brain injury and PTSD last fall," Doherty said. "The Shepherd Center was sort of my lighthouse in my storm, and I like the idea of being that lighthouse for others."

To get up close to the things that scare you is no easy thing, but that's where you find the good stuff – things like camaraderie, purpose, and healing. And, in this case, some well-earned honey. "That's the best part," Doherty smiled. "Giving the gift of hope to someone else, you at the same time are getting that same gift back."

Doherty is in the process of building a massive bee learning center and retreat for veterans in Morganton, Georgia that should be open in the next couple of months.

To donate to or learn more about that effort, [CLICK HERE](#). You can follow Doc's Healing Hives for updates on [Facebook](#) or on [Instagram](#). 



HOT HIVES

by *Kathy Bourn*

When a beekeeper talks about a hot hive, they are generally referring to a colony in need of an attitude adjustment. Beekeepers in the Canary Islands may now think of a hot hive differently. In September, the Cumbre Vieja volcano erupted, devastating villages and covering surrounding honey bee hives with volcanic ash.

A recent *New York Times* article about the event caught the attention of many beekeepers and entomologists. Many colonies were buried under volcanic ash for more than 50 days. Yet when beekeepers returned, they found most of their colonies alive and well. For many, this seems miraculous, but beekeepers realize that the qualities of honey bee colonies lend themselves to surviving such circumstances.

One quality of a colony is the ability to seal cracks and openings in a hive. Bees do this regularly with the use of propolis, and it works to protect them from wind, rain, snow and even the smoke from fires. That propolis also protected these bees against volcanic eruptions is a lucky coincidence. As Keith Delaplaine, Director of the UGA Bee Program, said, "All bees have propolis, and we have no reason to think it has any adaptive significance against volcano ash."

Another ability of colonies is to survive even if their hive is covered. An example of this is all the hives that are annually covered by snow. "I think this analogy is perfect. I don't think it was a case of extreme temperature resistance; I think the bees simply had the good fortune of light porous ash that permitted breathing," said Delaplaine.

Of course, if the bees have enough honey stored in the hive, they can survive as long as their stores hold out. As beekeepers know, the colonies do this every winter and in times of dearth.

A honey bee ability that amazes many is that they can regulate the temperature in the hive. Colonies have survived wildfires, building fires (like the fire at Cathedral of Notre-Dame) and extreme weather temperatures.

Yet the biggest challenge for these honey bees may be ahead. Much of the vegetation around the volcano is destroyed, so the colonies must be moved in order to survive going forward. 🐝

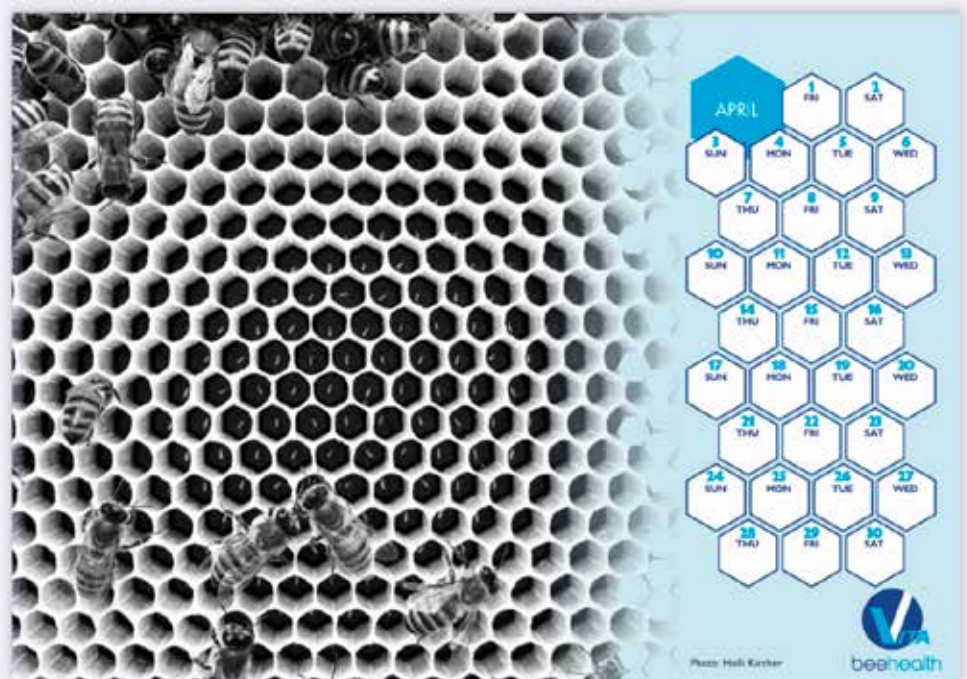


Five hives that held tens of thousands of bees were covered for weeks in ash expelled by the Cumbre Vieja volcano. Photo: *Elías González, La Palma Bee Keepers Association, via EPA-EFE/Shutterstock*

The Bees of 2022

by *Holli Kircher, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association*

I receive occasional emails from Vita Bee Health and, in June, one such email regarded their **2021 calendar photo contest**. I submitted three photos that I had taken at my home in Hartwell, GA. It was an international competition and I was fortunate enough to have one of my photos selected. It will be the image for the month of April in their **2022 calendar**. 🐝



Kelley Campbell

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

If you live north of I-20 and keep bees, you probably know Kelley Campbell. Not surprising, because she belongs to practically every bee club north of Atlanta!

Kelley started keeping bees in 2013. She thought originally that “it would be a retirement thing. I don’t cook or bake or have grandkids, so I’ll have bees because lots of people like beekeepers and I’ll have friends.” As a kid, Kelley thought that beekeeping was something the older generation did. So “if you were lucky enough to get old and wise, then you can keep bees. You earn it by becoming a village elder!”

She met Bill Dunn who told her that she should try beekeeping while she was still working. He offered to buy all of her hives from her if she tried beekeeping for a year and hated it.

But Kelley found that she loved working the bees. Kelley says, “Beekeeping is a disconnect from the fakeness of the world and its demands – due dates, screens, etc. In the bees I think, “This is what it’s all about - what is actually important and truly real.” Many people have a beekeeper in their ancestry. And Kelley feels the historical connection of keeping bees.

Kelley belongs to at least five or six bee clubs - Forsyth, Gwinnett, MABA, Cherokee, Etowah, the Atlanta Beekeeping Meetup. She is a director for GBA and also belongs to all of the clubs in her director assignment (“So I can keep up with what’s going on with each of them.”) She even keeps up with the agenda for clubs she doesn’t belong to so she can hear speakers that she might not be able to hear at her own clubs (with just a little bit of driving).

Kelley always is a volunteer in her local clubs. Mostly she is the secretary or media specialist. She’s helped with everything in most of the clubs, but she hasn’t ever held an officer position. Her volunteer work does allow her to know almost everyone. Kelley is deeply invested in the experience of new beekeepers.

In the clubs, she helps with field days, bee schools, nuc sales, anything that takes organizing. She’s worked on registration for events, memberships, newsletters, arranging the bee school, the nuc orders, the mentoring. What she is really invested in is networking and mentoring
(continued on next page)



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

for the new people. Kelley says she wants to see “people start to feel more successful and confident than she felt at the beginning.” She specifically doesn’t want to see new beekeepers feeling discouraged. She works hard to encourage people to ask for help from other beekeepers. In her “home” club, Forsyth, pre-COVID, she hosted get-together dinner meetings at Zaxby’s before the actual Forsyth meeting. This allowed new people to meet the speaker for the night and perhaps get exposed to the topic for the night in a more casual setting.

Kelley is an eager volunteer, motivated by her need to assist those new beekeepers. The hardest part for her in volunteering is saying “no.” She says yes a lot and gets relied on too much by her various local clubs. She knows it is important to share the jobs around, but she also knows it is hard to get volunteers.

One unique way that Kelley shares her beekeeping is through Facebook Live. She has hosted several hive inspections on Facebook. “It’s a quick and easy way for everyone to stay in touch.” Her personal and immediate sharing of what she is doing also helps to deter people’s fears about beekeeping. Sometimes she shares her beekeeping adventures with her students at the elementary school where she teaches. Her students come to the Facebook live events and they *love* it.

Kelley volunteers because she knows, as all of us who volunteer do, that bee clubs cannot sustain themselves. To support sustainability, Kelley gives back in spades. She knows that by giving back and not just taking, she is pushed to learn new answers to questions.

Kelley volunteers for GBA by transporting stuff to conferences, working the raffle ticket sales, being available, managing the junior beekeeping program, maintaining the club meeting schedule for the newsletter, and for the last two years, being a co-director with Mike Conner.

Kelley admires that GBA is always improving and learning from each conference for the upcoming conference. She was astounded that GBA moved to go virtual at the “drop of a hat” when COVID made gathering in person impossible. And now, she says, “by offering hybrids” GBA demonstrates that it is an organization that learns! She also loves the way GBA is always so welcoming to new people.

Kelley wants to encourage other people to “stick their neck out and volunteer.” She was nervous about it at first, but she “quickly realized how much she had learned.” She suggests, “Find a way to get involved: stack the chairs, take a three-hour shift to help at a conference.” Kelley knows that if you do something to help, you’ll meet other people in GBA and those people, in turn,

will help you out when you need it.

Follow Kelley’s good example and volunteer to help at your local club or at a GBA conference. Kelley says it is very rewarding. 🍯



Above (top): Kelley with queen cells; (bottom) Kelley accepts her Best in Show prize from Brutz English and Bear Kelley at the 2018 Georgia National Fair Honey Show.



CANNELES DE BORDEAUX

By Linda Tillman

Canneles are a beeswax and honey French pastry – dark and crisp on the outside, custardy dough on the inside. The molds I used were my French grandmother’s cannele molds of copper and tin. Coated with beeswax and butter, the molds crisp the outside of the canneles. *These are a beekeeper’s dreamy treat – honey and beeswax baked into them!*



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 vanilla beans
- 500 ml cold milk
- 200 g cane sugar
- 100 g all purpose flour
- 50 g melted butter
- 2 large eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 2T honey
- 2T dark rum

INSTRUCTIONS:

Slit vanilla beans lengthwise and scrape out the seeds. Put seeds, vanilla pods, and milk into the pan and bring to a gentle simmer. Turn off heat and let sit for 2 minutes. Whisk together sugar, eggs and egg yolks. Add melted butter and stir together. Remove the pods from milk and add ¼ of the milk gradually to the egg mix. Stir in flour and mix well. Then slowly add the rest of the milk. Add honey and rum and mix. Refrigerate all of this for 24 – 48 hours.

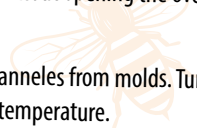
Coat the molds with a mix of the beeswax and butter. Melt the two together and then either paint or pour into warm copper molds, coating the interior. Turn upside down on the rack to allow excess to drip out.

FOR COATING:

- 40 g beeswax melted with 60 g butter

Preheat the oven to 475. Fill molds to 1 cm from top. Place on a foil lined baking sheet. Put canneles into the oven and bake for 15 minutes. Without opening the oven, turn heat to 375 and bake for 45 – 50 minutes more.

Remove canneles from the oven and quickly remove canneles from molds. Turn upside down on the rack to cool. Let cool for 2 hours at room temperature.



ASK AUNT BEE!

Question:

If a small queen and no brood is found in a colony in early December, is that queen a virgin and is it possible for her to survive the winter and then mate in the spring?

Answers:

When queens stop laying their ovaries shrink some and their bodies get smaller (like before swarming). If your queens aren’t marked, you should mark them to better monitor them in the spring. Fingers crossed that your queen plumps back up and lays!

– **Julia Mahood, Master Beekeeper**

It’s very unlikely an overwintering virgin will survive and emerge to mate next spring. They seem to lose

the mating capacity with age very rapidly even in a normal spring. Add to that an overwintering interval, and I think it’s nearly hopeless.

About a very small queen and no brood this time of year - Queen size can be deceptive and by itself is a poor indicator of her mating state. Which means there could be two scenarios at work here: yes, it is a late-season virgin doomed to failure (in my opinion); or she’s the colony’s true mother – just a small one. In either case, a close watch next spring for eggs and brood production is called for. And standby to order an early Hawaii queen!

– **Keith S. Delaplaine, MBE, PhD**
Director, UGA Honey Bee Program
Department of Entomology

POLLINATORS ON PARADE

by **Dan Long**, President, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association had a great time building their beekeeping float and again participating in the Athens Downtown Parade of Lights on December 2nd. Many members helped out by putting the float together and decorating it with thousands of lights. Luckily, we saved everything from the 2019 parade, so it went quickly.

The weather was perfect on parade night and the crowds were excited to see all of the different entrants. There were fire trucks, marching bands and lots of floats. We had a giant Langstroth hive, three trees, and a throne for our Queen Bee. The theme for the parade was Super Hero Holiday so we entered with the description: **"Honey bees and the beekeepers that protect them are true super heroes, pollinating over 100 different crops and providing delicious pure honey for us to enjoy."** We dressed up our beekeepers and special honey bees with capes that had various foods that honey bees are responsible for pollinating. We also had a cornucopia featuring some of those foods. Our very special guest Queen Bee was Dr. Lewis Bartlett from the UGA Bee Lab! We handed out Bit O Honey candy to the kids and pollinator protection pamphlets to adults. *It was a lot of fun and we won the award for **Most Original Float!*** 🐝



🐝 Plants for Bees: American Basswood 🐝

In the winter, it's hard to think about planting for your bees. But winter is actually a great time of year to plant trees for bees. The nectar production of one tree can equal acres of flowers. The American Basswood tree is a great plant for honey bees and many other pollinators.

The name basswood came from the use by native Americans of the tree's fibrous, tough inner bark – or “bast” – for making cords, thongs and rope. Pioneers dubbed it “basswood,” leading to its common name. It is also known as American Linden.

This deciduous tree is an excellent shade tree that produces a very dense crown of large leaves. The clusters of fragrant yellow/white flowers are pollinator magnets. In many areas it's simply referred to as the bee tree. If you don't have room for the large basswood, you can opt for the smaller (40-50 feet) non-native cousin, the Littleleaf Linden. It is just as alluring to pollinators.

The color of basswood honey ranges from white to extra light amber and the flavor is described as medium sweet and fruity, with a hint of lime.

Even better for bees, basswood trees bloom during the summer dearth. 🐝



American Basswood Tree (*Tilia americana*)

HABITAT: Grows on moist upland woods and slopes.

Also found in protected bluffs and ravines; found throughout Iowa.

HARDINESS: Zones 3-8

GROWTH RATE: Moderate to Rapid

HEIGHT: 75 to 130 feet

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, double-toothed with unequal leaf bases

SITE REQUIREMENTS: American basswood grows from full sun to dense shade and prefers moist well drained soils. Basswoods are highly adaptable to soil conditions.

FLOWERING DATES: June - July

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! 🐝

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "Local Club Meeting Plans for Upcoming Month". The form has several sections with text input fields and checkboxes.

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

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

Chattooga County Beekeepers Association

Max and Lynn Cordle, both members of Chattooga County Beekeepers Association and GBA, presented books on natural beekeeping to the **Chattooga County Library**. The purchase of these books was made possible by a grant from the License Plate Fund Committee. The donation included two books by Dr. Leo Sharashkin. 🍯



Kathy Berry (left) of the Chattooga Library receives books about natural beekeeping from Lynn and Max Cordle (right).

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association held its December meeting at our new location; the Athens-Clarke County Cooperative Extension on Cleveland Rd. in Bogart, Georgia. Journeyman Beekeeper **Mary Lacksen** taught us all about the Sourwood tree, sourwood honey and how she practices migratory beekeeping to capture that delicious honey with her bees. It was an informative and fun evening of learning and we had lots of door prizes, too! 🍯



Mary Lacksen chasing Sourwood Honey with her bees.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, December 21st at the Fair Bridge Inn in Perry, GA. The program consisted of presenting the slate of officers for 2022: **Jonathan Hayes**, president; **Jonathan Brown**, vice president; **Marie Moore**, secretary; **Emily Heath**, treasurer, **Joe Santiago** and **John Keys**, directors. The Jesse McCurdy Beekeeper of the Year for 2021 was awarded to **Anita Curry**. Jonathan Hayes crafted a plaque to present to Anita for her service as HOGBA president the past year. After the presentations and announcement about our new meeting place for 2022, a potluck dinner was enjoyed by the members.

HOGBA will be meeting at the **Argene Canning Plant** located at 1701 Houston Lake Road in Perry, GA. Mentoring begins at 6:30 PM with the regular meeting starting at 7:00 PM. For more information about us visit our website www.hogba.org. 🍯



Above Left: Anita Curry (left) being presented the Jesse McCurdy Beekeeper of the Year Award plaque by incoming HOGBA president Jonathan Hayes. Above Right: Jonathan and Anita with the handcrafted plaque.

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

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** 



Tri-County Beekeepers

The TriCounty Beekeepers met in December for the annual Christmas potluck, election of officers, and our 5th annual honey show. Of the 20 entries across nine categories, **David Hollomon** took Best of Show with an impressive handcrafted Damascus steel hive tool and bespoke leather sheath. **Dottie Martin** won first place in the black jar honey contest. Our next meeting will be January 10 where **Jimmy Gatt** will speak on High Quality Nucs. A **FUNDamentals of Beekeeping** day-long course will be held Feb 12 from 9:00 am- 4 pm in Lula. Visit TriCountyBeekeepers.net for more details. 



Above Left: Santa (TCB member **Mark Kersh**) performed a lively reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Right: Judge **Gail Dean** and Steward **Mike Conner** reviewing entries in the honey show.

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	gabeesecretary@gmail.com	770-595-4187
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabeetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
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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
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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				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				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		Jan. 11	Spring Management – Steven Page	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			Practical Beekeeping Course 2022– Tuesdays, Jan. 4 - Feb. 1, 6:30 - 9 pm. Click here for more info.	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			Introduction to Beekeeping Class 2022– Jan. 29, 8 am - 4 pm Click here for more info.	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		Jan. 13	Your bees made it through the winter! Now what? – How to handle hives that have successfully overwintered and the decisions beekeepers face.	etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Jan. 15 Jan. 27	2022 Bee School – Click here for more info. January Meeting: First Quarter Management and new laws effecting cut-outs – Brutz English	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Virtual	Jan. 18 Jan. 29	"Causes and Consequences of Queen Infertility" – Allison McAfee One-Day Online Beekeeping Course – Click here for more info.	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbcbecclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm			Beekeeping Short Course – Jan. 22, 8 am - 5pm. Call 770-467-4225 to register.	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	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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		Jan. 10	High Quality Nucs– Jimmy Gatt	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, 7pm				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.*

Buzz of the Season

Winter inevitably means less time spent in the bee yard with our bees. But as we gather with friends and family to celebrate the holiday season, our bees are never far from mind as demonstrated by this sampling of holiday images submitted by GBA members. 🐝

1-5: Christmas tree ornaments from the collection of Linda Tillman; 6: Sue Barnes (Altamaha Beekeepers Association), in her first attempt at cookie decorating, made these whimsical bee cookies instead of gingerbread men for Christmas; 7: Kevin McCraney (Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association) sent this photo of a festively decorated hive; 8-13: Christmas tree ornaments from the collection of Peter Helfrich.





Spilling *The* Honey

FEBRUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The GBA has been managing well during the Covid years and our membership remains strong. Our membership hovers around a thousand members and has been at that level for the last two years or so. We have many very active clubs around the state educating beekeepers by sharing information, providing mentoring opportunities, and holding meetings and introductory courses.

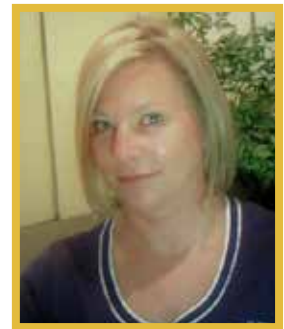
And we are about to enjoy another great GBA conference on February 18th and 19th in a new venue at Middle Georgia State University in Macon. **You can see the program for the meeting here.** We are excited to hear presentations from UGA's Dr. Keith Delaplane and Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Kentucky Master Beekeeper Kent Williams, and our own Steve Page of Coweta Sustainable Beekeeping.

The February conference is when and where we have our artisan honey show which is a place for you to show off your products other than honey – needlework, baking, art, photography and more. Entries for the honey show will be accepted late Friday afternoon as well as Saturday morning. Check the conference schedule for exact times.

Our vendors will be setting up Friday before the board meeting. We are sending a warm and special thanks to our GBA conference sponsors which include Pigeon Mountain Beekeeping Supplies (Laura & Johnny), Mann Lake (Paul), and Blue Ridge Honey Company (Molly & Bob)

I hope you all come and bring (or make) new bee friends and celebrate being together! **To register for the conference, click here.** 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

2022 Spring Conference

FEB. 18-19, 2022

ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
Middle Georgia State
University, Macon, GA
For details and to register:
gabeekeeping.com

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Lewis Bartlett**
Postdoctoral Associate,
University of Georgia
Center for the Ecology
of Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Keith Delaplane**
Director,
University of Georgia
Honey Bee Program
- Kent Williams**
Kentucky
Master Beekeeper



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.** 

ATTN: Local Club Presidents It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.

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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE.**

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

by Kelley Campbell

One of the greatest investments you can make in beekeeping is education. Whether you are curious about beekeeping, or you already keep bees and just want to improve your skills, local clubs offer an unlimited supply of insight into best practices to better your apiary. These events are perfect places to meet others in your area who have overcome the obstacles you are sure to encounter eventually. Here are some upcoming bee schools:

FEBRUARY 2022

- Saturday, February 12 in Lula through the **Tri-County Beekeepers**
- Saturday, February 19, 2022 in Canton through the **Etowah River Beekeepers**
- Saturday, February 26 in Albany through **Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA) Beekeepers**
- Saturday, February 26 in Cumming through **Forsyth Beekeepers Club**

MARCH 2022

- Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Dacula through the **Beekeepers Club of Gwinett County**
- Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Perry through the **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association**

If your club is offering a bee school that is not listed above, please tell us about it! You may **complete this short form**, and/or write up a short blurb about what it offers and **e-mail it to our newsletter editors** for publication in the next newsletter! 🐝



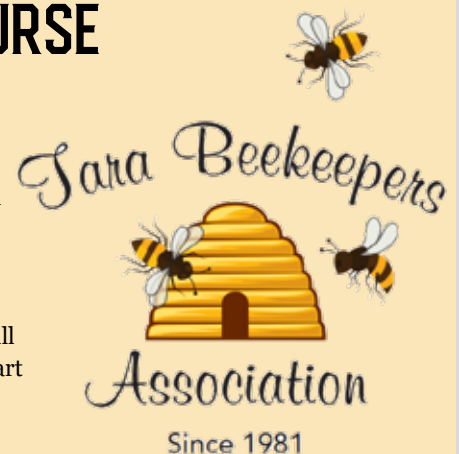
TARA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION LONG COURSE

Dates: March - August, 2022 | **Location:** Tara Beekeepers teaching apiary in Decatur

Tara Beekeepers Association is offering a 6-month beekeeping course called **THE LONG COURSE**, which targets first- and second-year beekeepers who have either set up, or will be getting, their first hives. The class follows the beekeeping year — from package installation through end of summer — emphasizing experiential, hands-on learning in an apiary with experienced beekeepers to advise and guide you. The purpose is to help new beekeepers navigate their first year, providing mentorship along the way.

Classes will be held monthly, March through August in our teaching apiary in Decatur. We will have a limited number of 3-lbs. packages of bees available to students who are planning to start their apiary when class begins March 19th.

For more information including details and how to sign up, go to tarabeekeepers.org 🐝



2022 Spring Artisan Show




by *Brutz English*

The GBA Spring Conference will be here in just a few short weeks. The Spring Artisans' Show is the place to show off our many beekeeping products beyond just honey and wax. So bring on the mead and ale, the cakes and breads, and all the arts and crafts. Beyond the chance at glory that comes with possibly taking home one of GBA's coveted blue ribbons, this year's show also boasts more than \$4,000 in prize money!

Competition categories include Mead, Beer & Ale, Honey Cake, Photography, Arts, Crafts, Bread, Confections, Needlecraft, Gadgets, Notions, Potions & Lotions, Electronic Media, Poetry and many more. So come on out all you brewers, bakers, artists, and crafters! We are going to have an exciting show at the Spring Conference, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Click here for complete show rules and specified recipes. Or find them at the GBA website under the "Events" tab.

To get an idea of how the Artisan Show is presented and judged, ***here is a video from the 2021 GBA Artisan Show.*** 



Above: A sampling of the amazing (and amazing variety of) talent on display at the 2021 GBA Artisans' Show.

FRAME CLEANING

A Beekeeper's Winter Sport

by Kathy Bourn

One beekeeper chore that they never really tell you about in the beekeeping courses is frame cleaning. Many of us let those old frames stack up until a cold, wet day in winter when we have no excuse to avoid dealing with them. Mainly these are frames that were used for brood rearing and are now too dark, or they came from dead out hives and the comb has been damaged. Sometimes these are frames that are empty but the bees have used them enough to put propolis on the ends. It's hard to destroy the precious drawn comb that your bees have worked so hard to produce, but you can think of it as doing them a favor by helping them clean house.

In the past, beekeepers would never cycle out their frames that had old dark comb. Now it's more common to remove them. The bees will still use that comb; in fact, many beekeepers use it to help catch swarms. But there are reasons to remove old wax these days, mainly because of the build up of pesticide residues, and traces of disease such as nosema and foulbrood. Another reason to cull dark brood comb is that after each use, even though the bees clean each cell, the cells eventually get smaller.

But how dark is *too dark*? One strategy is to mark your frames by date and remove brood frames every three to five years. The problem with this system is that the bees may use one frame more than another. Three-year old comb

may be dark, while the five-year old comb is still good. I simply take out the darkest comb no matter the age.

To get your bees off the well-used brood frames, in the fall move those frames to the outside of the box. The bees will cluster in the center for the winter and you can take out those frames in the spring before they start re-filling them.

The answer to the question of how to clean your frames depends a lot on your beekeeping style. There are basically three different types of frames, and each one requires a different technique.

FRAMES WITH WAX FOUNDATION

When the comb in these frames has reached its end, it can be cut out. I've found that a steak knife works well for this. If the frame is wired, that can be a challenge. One strategy is to simply cut the wires and then rewire the frame when you re-install new wax foundation. Some beekeepers put the entire frame in their solar wax melter and let it do its work. If the comb is very dark, you won't get much wax out of it and the slungum (comb garbage) can be messy to remove. After that, it's a matter of scraping off the excess wax and propolis to whatever degree is to your liking.

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FRAMES WITH PLASTIC FOUNDATION

In my opinion this is by far the hardest type of frame to clean. You can't put it in a solar wax melter because the plastic will buckle. You can force the plastic sheet and old comb out of the frame but that means buying new plastic foundation and having to throw away plastic. You can hand scrape the old comb off the plastic with a hive tool. This is a workout, especially if there is any pollen left in the comb. If you have access to a pressure washer, you can hit the frames with that but you end up with pieces of comb flying all over the place and it doesn't really clean the inside of each cup. One thing that helps release all the old comb is to remove the plastic sheets from the frame and soak them for two weeks in chlorine and Dawn dishwashing detergent. The Dawn releases the wax from the plastic and you can then either scrub them or hit them with the pressure washer.

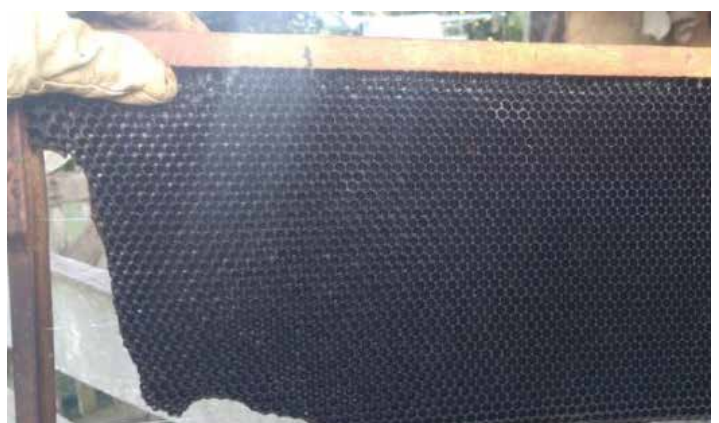
FRAMES WITH NO FOUNDATION

Here is where that old steak knife comes in handy. All it takes is to run that knife around the edge of that old dark comb. You can try melting it, but if it's really dark you won't get much wax from it. If you don't want to bother cutting it out, you can put the entire frame (if it is not plastic) in your solar wax melter. Of course if you're doing this in the winter that doesn't work well. As a side note, I've discovered that if you're a treatment-free beekeeper your dogs might love this dark comb cut into treat size.

If you have extra freezer space, it's a good idea to run your frames through the freezer for a couple days before storing them. Even if you've cleaned them well, wax moth eggs can be hidden. Also, the propolis comes off in chunks if it is cold.

Now the question is, how well do you really need to scrape off every piece of wax and propolis. Since I have foundationless frames, I tend to leave some wax on the comb guide to remind the bees to use it. Most of the cleaning I do is on the frame shoulders and ends. That is where the propolis can build up and make it difficult to get frames seated correctly next spring.

If any of you have frame cleaning and storing techniques that you have perfected, please share them with the *Spilling the Honey* readers. 🍯



Above from top: Scraping comb from plastic foundation can be a workout; Soaking frames with plastic foundation in advance can help the wax release; Using a pressure washer to blast wax drawn on plastic foundation. At left: A stack of finished frames ready to be put back in service.

JUST ZOOM IT!

by **Mary Cahill-Roberts**, Vice President, Tara Beekeepers Association

Keeping a beekeeping club going during the pandemic... *well, let's just say it's been a real challenge!* At Tara Beekeepers, we decided to stop in-person meetings in March of 2020. Our club's board met and decided to try Zoom, but we did not have any scheduled speakers; we just met as a group. We started our Zoom meetings in January of 2021. We met in person once that July, but with the emerging Delta variant surge, we shut back down again until November. Then, in December, we had Omicron. Again, another shut down. For January of '22, we Zoomed.

How is *your* club faring after almost two years of COVID?

It has been a challenge to try to meet the needs of all our beekeepers via Zoom meetings. We took advantage of the **Georgia Beekeepers Association video library**, a brilliant idea that was established in the summer of 2020. GBA asked me to record a couple of presentations that I gave for a few clubs, and I was happy to do so since we all have had to come up with work-arounds to stay safe, and I knew this would help build up the library's offerings. The video library is a great resource that has become extensive, and I see us using it often in the future. I hope GBA continues to provide it. If you have not looked at the library, **go to the web page** and check out all the different speakers and topics GBA provides. It is excellent.

Zoom has proven a great addition as well. Sometimes when I am asked to come to an in-person meeting, my hesitation is the distance I must travel to get there. I do not like to drive alone and usually attempt to take someone with me, but cannot always. Zoom has changed that for me. I can

speak all over the state! *Heck, even the country if I am asked.* Zoom also allows a lot of people to attend meetings that they might not be able to make in person, again giving opportunities to a lot more people.

Now that the pandemic pandemonium is calming, we move forward. Our club intends to play it by ear for now, and with Zoom we have the option to keep having meetings. As the vice president, I am responsible for finding speakers for our meetings. If I need to Zoom, I will not hesitate to use it. The platform has given me more options, but as we have had so much of Zoom, we really crave some in-person interaction.

Before March of 2020, I had not heard of Zoom beyond a kids' television show with the same name that aired in the 1970s. *How times have changed!* 🍷

GBA VIDEO LIBRARY

GBA's video library is accessible by all club presidents. If you need a program for a monthly meeting, consider using a GBA video. You can show it at an in-person meeting as long as you have an Internet connection. If your meeting place doesn't offer Internet, someone's phone can be used as a hotspot. The topics are many and varied, and taking advantage of the offerings in the library can really enhance the subjects available to a club. **To see a listing of available video presentations, click here.**



Hurray for Honey Shows!

by *Mary Cahill-Roberts, Vice President, Tara Beekeepers Association*

I love honey shows - especially the creativity and craftsmanship that's always on display. That's why each year, when I attend the Artisan Show at GBA's Spring Conference, I take a lot of pictures of all the entries other beekeepers have produced. It gives me great ideas, even if I don't ever attempt similar projects myself.

The Artisan Show allows the use of honey in a variety of ways that one may not initially think about. For instance, during the pandemic I started to grill on my Big Green Egg more often, and I began looking at Youtube and reading recipes for ideas about how to be a better grill. What really completes my fun is when I can find a new way to incorporate honey.

I was privileged to judge the GBA's first Artisan Show. We had many entries in that show that were simply amazing. One that stands out was a Russian honey cake!. It was awesome! In fact, I believe it won Best of Show. I copied the recipe and tried making something similar without success. As it was a lot of work, I have not attempted it again. Googling the recipe yielded similar results – a recipe with a multitude of difficult steps. It takes about nine hours to make – with a bake time of only 45 minutes! It makes one truly appreciate how much work these incredible Artisan Show entries take.

I challenge you to create something fun with your honey or something connected to honey bees. This is a time to enjoy the craftsmanship that a lot of beekeepers possess. I'm anticipating the 2022 Spring Honey Show with relish... speaking of which, *perhaps that will be a condiment that I enter!* 🍯

Below: A wide range of entries from past GBA Artisan Shows.



Above: The author was among the judges at GBA's first Artisan Show; Inset: A slice of time-intensive Russian Honey Cake.



Mike Conner

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Mike Conner first kept bees with his father in the late sixties and early seventies. His father had bees in their yard at home, at his grandfather's house, and at a cottage near Lake Erie. Mike remembers that in the winter they wrapped their hives and literally didn't see or think about their bees again until spring. He had some early experiences with foulbrood and remembers having to burn hives with his father. In the end, his father gave up beekeeping due to an increasing reactivity to bee stings.

About six years ago, Mike saw a beekeeping display at the Forsyth County Fair. He met Kelley Campbell and Bill Dunn there. Influenced by them, Mike decided to get bees and start beekeeping again. Mike now lives in Jefferson, Georgia where he has most of his hives.

"Beekeeping matches my contrarian nature in that most people are scared of bees. I also keep bees to honor the memory of my dad." He keeps his bees mainly to raise the

bees and to collect wax. Honey is a "secondary benefit" as Mike only eats about two pounds of honey a year. He does love giving honey away, though.

Beekeeping for Mike is a family activity. His wife and son are both involved in his beekeeping ventures currently. His daughter helped the first year, but has not been too interested since then.

Mike currently belongs to nine different bee clubs. He and Kelley Campbell share a director position for GBA and they have joined all of the clubs in their director group. So he belongs to Beekeepers of Gwinnett, Oglethorpe, Eastern Piedmont, MABA, Beekeepers of Madison County, Forsyth, Etowah River, Tri-county and the Atlanta Beekeepers Meetup. In the past, he also has had memberships in Cherokee, Amicalola, Lake Country and Tara Beekeepers.

I asked how those clubs are different from each other.

(continued on next page)



Mike Conner keeps bees, in part, to honor the memory of his late father, who introduced him to beekeeping. Mike currently belongs to nine different bee clubs! He currently serves as President of the Beekeepers of Gwinnett County.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

Mike said that most are similar. Some hold raffles, some don't; some serve food, some don't. He really likes the raffles though. Some clubs give away the raffle tickets and others sell them for a dollar. However they do it, raffles seem to energize clubs. Mike really enjoys visiting the clubs in his director region.

Mike is currently the President of the Beekeepers of Gwinnett. He has been in officer positions in other clubs, but mainly likes being a mentor to new beekeepers. He loves watching someone go from being a beginning beekeeper to becoming a mentor for other beekeepers. Mike is currently mentoring two beekeepers - a high school kid and a college kid. When he mentors, essentially he lets them know that he is going to inspect his bees and they come over. Lots of teachable moments then occur.

Being a volunteer isn't hard, Mike says, "You just have to show up." He touts volunteering as a great activity for his social life. Beekeepers are great friends and he loves getting to know them. As Woody Allen said, "90% of life is just showing up." That is a favorite quote for Mike.

Mike creates a lot of beekeeping equipment with fellow beekeeper Dan Long. They made a long Langstroth together which was fun, and Mike has helped Dan install several observation hives. While building your own equipment saves money, really, for Mike, it's about the process of making the item.

Mike heard me mention once that I needed some way to hold the top bars from my top bar hive so that I could

better see the bees. As a surprise, he and Dan Long custom built a frame holder for me to make looking at my top bars so much easier.

Mike says his favorite part of being a director is telling a club president about the availability of the license plate money. He would like to see more clubs apply for grants – *the money is there and it belongs to the GBA members* – clubs should apply. He also likes working with Kelley, "She is more organized than I am, so she makes it easy."

Mike said that the bee license plate was "such an amazing thing that GBA did. And GBA is a great resource for beekeepers because the conferences are amazing learning opportunities."

Mike has volunteered for GBA in other ways as well. At conferences he has worked on registration. He has helped with honey shows. He has worked as a steward at several GBA honey shows.

If you don't know Mike Conner, he's a great guy to get to know. He is a director for GBA and you will see him at GBA board meetings. He is always working to promote bees and beekeeping, whether it is in chairing a Gwinnett Beekeepers meeting or marching beside a bee float in a Christmas parade. Thank you, Mike, for all the ways you volunteer in the Georgia Beekeeping world. 🐝

Mike working as part of the team to bring a parade float to life.





INSTANT POT COUGH SYRUP WITH HONEY

By Willa Beth Smith

Adapted from AweFilledHomemaker.com

Raw Honey – Is antibacterial, antimicrobial and is an immune booster.

Thyme – Works as an anti-inflammatory and disinfectant.

Ginger – Helps break up mucus in the lungs and boosts the immune system.

Cayenne Pepper – (who knew, right?) It helps to relieve pain especially if you have a sore throat.

Lemon – Lemon is also antibacterial and is a sinus opener.



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ¼ cup Raw Honey
- ¼ tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 2 cups of Spring Water
- 1 Lemon (juiced)
- ¼ cup Thyme sprigs
- ¼ cup fresh Ginger

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Chop ginger into small pieces; no need to peel it.
- 2) Add water, thyme and ginger to the Instant Pot, turn it to saute' and simmer for about 10 minutes (should reduce by about half).
- 3) Turn off the Instant Pot and let these sit for about 10 minutes until the liquid is warm, not hot.
- 4) Using a mesh sieve, strain the ginger and thyme from the liquid; compost used herbs.
- 5) Wisk the honey, lemon juice and cayenne pepper together and pour into the strained liquid.
- 6) Pour the cough syrup into an airtight glass container.
- 7) Store in the refrigerator for 1-2 months.

NOTE: This cough syrup is a thinner syrup; for a thicker syrup, use less water.

CAUTIONS: If you have a cough that persists for more than two weeks or rapidly gets worse, seek a physician's help. Children under the age of one year old should not ingest honey.

ASK AUNT BEE!



Question:

It's been demonstrated that honey bees can recycle propolis within the hive. They can scrape it from one place, put it on their corbicula (pollen basket) and move it to a different location in the hive.

But can honey bees reuse old propolis? In other words, if a beekeeper puts propolis back in a hive that they have cleaned off frames/supers, can the bees use it again?

Answer:

My initial thought is that they won't reuse it, because propolis loses its antimicrobial efficacy over time. However, if they really need to seal something up or secure their hive cover, they will certainly use what is available. Marla Spivak, Professor of Entomology at the University of Minnesota, says that some colonies will reuse it.

Please remember that propolis is collected primarily after our main nectar flow in Georgia, so most propolis is collected from the summer into the early fall. I don't recommend that you scrape propolis off



during this time period, because the newly collected resin has all of the good antimicrobial qualities that the bees use for social immunity in the colony. They are also preparing for winter. If you want to clean up your propolized frames, I suggest that you wait until spring for that, when the propolis has lost some of its antimicrobial qualities. Propolis is a good thing for your bees!

– Cindy Hodges
Master Craftsman Beekeeper
President, Dunwoody Beekeepers Club



Plants for Bees: Red Maple Tree

When new beekeepers ask how they can know that the nectar flow has started, they're usually told to look for the bloom on red maple trees. Even though it may still be January, you can start to see the first fuzz on this honey bee friend.



These early blooming trees do feed bees, but it's the timing of the food source that is important. You often can start to see the reddish tint on the trees in January, but the maples can start in February or even March, depending on the weather and elevation. The tiny red blossoms produce a moderate amount of nectar, but a lot of pollen.



A honey crop is rarely produced from red maples because, when it is blooming, the bees will consume the fresh nectar even if they still have stored honey. For some colonies, the red maple tree can be the difference between winter survival and death. 🍯

Red Maple Tree (*Acer rubrum*)

SOIL/CLIMATE: Red maple is one of the most common and widespread deciduous trees of eastern North America and is adaptable to a very wide range of soil. It prefers wet conditions but has a slight drought tolerance. Full sun is the ideal condition.

HARDINESS: Zones 3-9

MATURE HEIGHT: 40-70' and a spread of around 40'. Can be over 100' tall under the right conditions.

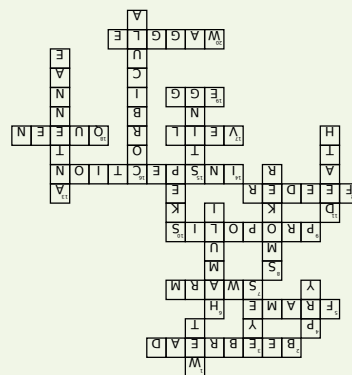
ATTRIBUTES:

- Fast growing

- Autumn foliage ranges from greenish yellow to scarlet red
- Produces red (sometimes yellow) clusters of small flowers
- Has simple, medium to dark green leaves 2"-6" in length with 3 or 5 lobes and sinuses that are irregularly toothed
- Can grow in an oval, rounded, upright or erect shape

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: USDA / NRCS PLANTS Database.

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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

Coweta Beekeepers Association

On January 29th, Coweta Beekeepers Association kicked off the 2022 beekeeping season with their annual introduction to beekeeping course. The program was designed to take new beekeepers through their first year of beekeeping – from the first day their new bees arrive through surviving winter. It also serves as a great refresher for beekeepers wanting more confidence when working with their bees. For more info about Coweta Beekeepers Association, **follow them on Facebook.** 📺



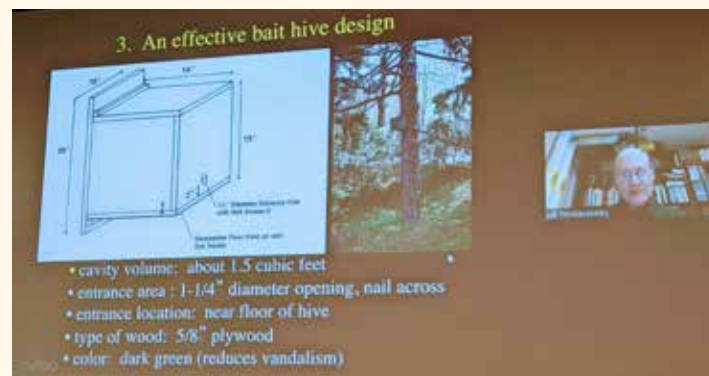
Top: Coweta Beekeepers Association had a full house for their annual introduction to beekeeping course in January. Above left: Dan and Dora Scales had their mobile store in house. Above right: CBA President Heather Shinn kicks off the program.

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers (HOGBA) held its monthly meeting Tuesday, January 18 at its **new location – Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry**. President **Jonathan Hayes** presented a program on how to build a sugar board. He constructed one and then held a drawing in which **Nik Jett** won it. HOGBA also recognized **Hazel McCurdy** for her many years of service as secretary. Hazel was the first and only secretary of HOGBA until her retirement this year. Jonathan then led a discussion on the mission of HOGBA for the coming year with topics including membership, beekeeping 101 class and suggested speaker topics. Our next meeting is February 15 with the mentoring session starting at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting at 7:00 PM. For more information: www.hogba.org 📺

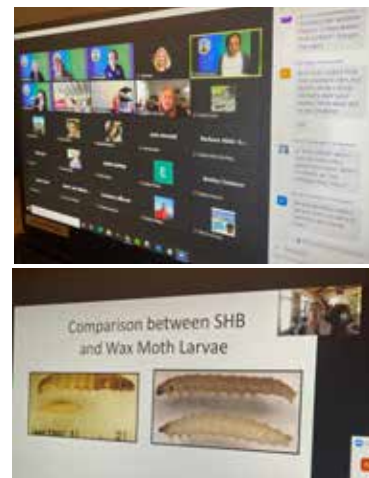
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

On January 3rd, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association had **Dr. Thomas Seeley** speak to us from New York via Zoom about Bait Hives. The talk was based on his research into natural hive cavities in trees, and his subsequent experiments with size, shape and orientation of swarm traps. Some design variables were irrelevant and others proved very important for improving chances at getting a swarm to move in. High quality bees for (nearly) free! 📺



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

In January, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association staged its annual introductory beekeeping short course to some 99 eager participants. Presented virtually via Zoom conference, the program featured presentations and Q&A by a panel of MABA's master and journeyman beekeepers, as well as recorded segments by **Dr. Keith Delaplane** and **Jennifer Berry** of UGA. A comprehensive range of topics covered everything from selecting equipment, to bee biology, diseases and pests of the hive, smoker lighting, nutrition, hive inspections and more!



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

Tri-County Beekeepers

John Mitchell, retired Banks County Extension agent, long time beekeeper, and one of founders of **the Welsh honey judge program in Georgia** just returned from Ireland and Spain with samples of black oak, chestnut, various wildflowers, and heather honeys for the TriCounty Beekeepers' club to sample and compare. John explained how Robert Brewer and Michael Young together with himself and Dr Keith Delaplane brought the Welsh honey judge program here to Georgia to increase the quality of honey sold in Georgia so beekeepers can charge more for their honey. Bell heather is Ireland's equivalent honey to sourwood honey in the Southeastern US. Galicia province in NW Spain uses a seal to differentiate their honey. Four ounces of honey sells for 11€ (~12.50USD) there!

Jimmy Gatt spoke on high-quality nucs and encouraged everyone to look for ways to add varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH) and "ankle biting" genetics as a way to treat mites in lieu of chemical alternatives. (*Ankle biting bees literally bite legs off varroa causing them to bleed to death!*)

TriCounty Beekeepers will be hosting a beekeeping short course on Saturday, February 12, 2022, 9am - 4pm. **FUNDamentals of Beekeeping** will be held at the Mt Carmel Baptist Church, 2405 GA-51, Lula, GA 30554. **Click here to register!**

Our next regular club meeting will be Monday, February 14, 2022, 7pm – 9pm. **Harold Lanier** of **Lanier Bee Barn** will speak on swarms. Weather permitting, we will check the club hives at 6:30 before the meeting. 🍯



Top: **John Mitchell** discusses the variety of honeys he brought back from Ireland and Spain to share with the club; Above: **Jimmy Gatt** speaks about the makings of a high-quality nuc.

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	gabeeselector@gmail.com	770-595-4187
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabeetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
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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, 6pm	in-person	Feb. 7	Beekeeping on the Cheap – Karen Palmer, SE Georgia Regional Director	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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				aron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Feb. 8	Your bees made it through winter, now what? – Bob Thanepohn	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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	Hybrid (in-person / Zoom)			etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Feb. 24	Mary Cahill-Roberts	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)			2022 Beekeeping 101 Workshop – Sat. 3/19, 9 am - 12, adn 1 - 3:30 in the apiary	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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.

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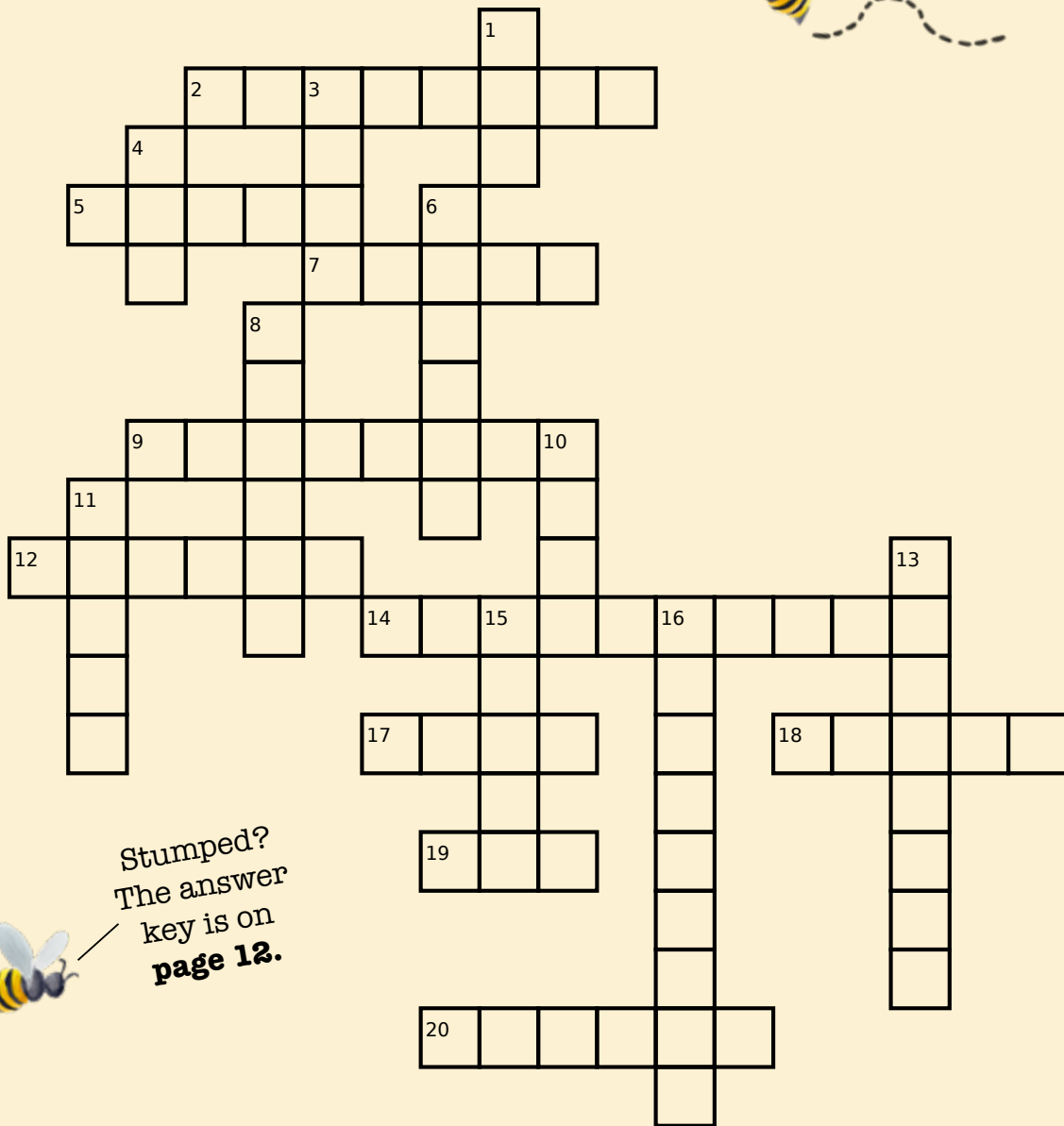
Club Meetings* (cont'd)

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 County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm		Feb. 3	Nicholas Weaver, Bee Downtown	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Hybrid (in-person & Zoom)	Feb. 15	Swarms – Mary Cahill-Roberts	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	RJ's Seafood & Steak 434 S Main Street Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 5pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm		Feb. 14	February-April, our topics will be based on hive management for early spring	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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm	in person	Feb. 3	Honey Bee Nutrition – Mary Cahill-Roberts	monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	Virtual/Zoom	Feb. 21	Nucs versus Packages – Karen Palmer of Honey Please	tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street 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		Feb. 14	Swarms – Harold Lanier of LanierBeeBarn.com	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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm		Feb. 15	Getting Ready for Spring (Please note our new meeting location.)	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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 12.



DOWN:

1. Honey that is above 18.6 Percent moisture
3. The Frida Kahlo feature of the drone bee
4. What we do with the hive tool to separate the hive boxes
6. Hooks that connect the two wings of the bee
8. Metal tool that keeps bees calm
10. Olden days structure to keep bees in
11. What the drone experiences in the act of mating
13. The equivalent of the bee's nose
15. What we try to avoid in the beehive
16. The pollen basket on the bee's back leg

ACROSS:

2. Made of pollen to feed larvae (two words, no space)
5. The structure that holds the beeswax
7. What we hope our bees won't do in the spring
9. Sticky stuff that bees use to glue hive boxes together
12. What our bees need in some winters to make it through until spring
14. Opening a beehive to see how it is doing
17. Protects the beekeepers eyes
18. The mother of all the bees in the hive
19. Stands on end in a honey comb cell
20. The dance that bees do in the dark of the hive



Spilling *The* Honey

MARCH 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for a warm and wonderful in-person conference. What a treat it was to see everyone in person! We had an amazing group of talented and selfless GBA volunteers who worked for weeks and months ahead of, and during, the set-up, Friday's board meeting, all-day Saturday, right through the close-down and packing up of our conference. Special thanks go to **Brutz English, Sarah English, Bobby Chassion, Julia Mahood, Linda Tillman, Derrick Fowler, Luke Ellerman, Jonathan Hayes, Georgia Zumwalt, Emily Heath, Monica Sheppard, Karen Palmer, Kelley Campbell, Mike Conner, Harvest Hoffman, Kathy Bourn, Peter Helfrich, Sophia Price, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Katie Goodman, Marilynn Parker, Harvest Hoffman, Nancy Simpson, Beatty Cosgrove, Steve Genta, Darek Foti, Nancy Deason, Dan Long, Kat Tucker, Eddie Gwaltney, Charles Tippins, Jr., Michael Grimes, Brian Huggins, Mary Lacksen, Cindy Hayes, Frank Grove, Christine Strong, Edward Hoehn, Katherine Mahlberg, Robert and Susan Barnes.** Please forgive me for any of those I missed. This is how many of us it took to host this event. Thank you all.

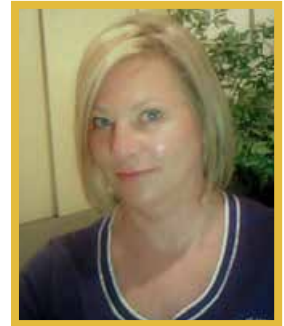
Our keynote speakers, all of whom gave stupendous talks, were **Dr. Keith Delaplane, Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Kent Williams** and **Steve Page.** Thank you for being with us and sharing so much of yourselves.

We very much appreciate our sponsors which were **Pigeon Mountain, Mann Lake, Blue Ridge Mountain Honey** and **Earl Hoffman.** We saw old and new friends at our vendors' tables. It was great to see **Bob Binnie, Karen Brock, Jim Berry, Carol and Earl Hoffman, Cara and Brendan Kokinda, Tina Lucas, Tom Nolan, Michael Barbera,** and **Trish Keller.**

Our first meeting in the Robert Hatcher Conference Center went exceedingly well; we enjoyed really good food and service from the manager, **Cristina Meyer.** GBA will be back there in February 2023.

We are well into planning the September 22-24, 2022 fall conference, which will be held in Gainesville, Georgia. 🍯

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



Read the latest news from the GBA License Committee about how clubs are using license plate funding and how you can apply. See [pages 2 and 3.](#)



What Has the GBA Honey Bee Tag Done for You?

by **Sophia Price**, Chair, GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

In 2022, January set a record with eleven requests for funding. There were ten grant applications in February. Those requests – made by only eight clubs – represent 17% of the clubs in GBA. Below are the clubs that have submitted grant applications in 2022 and the number of grants the club has applied for:

- Altamaha Beekeepers Association (1)
- Beekeepers of Gwinnett County (3)
- Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association (1)
- Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (2)
- Northeast Georgia Mountains Beekeepers Association (1)
- Ogeechee Area Beekeepers (2)
- Potato Creek Beekeepers Association (1)
- Tara Beekeepers Association (1)

Six clubs requested speaker fees, five requested funding for classes, two were prison grants, three were to establish apiaries, two were for observation hives and/or bees for them, and one was for GBA advertising. (The state approval of the bee tag allowed us to use the funds for advertising to promote tag sales. Remember, no sales, no grant money.) We have a **95% approval rate** for grants submitted.

After the committee meets, the applicant is notified of the committee decision within 72 hours. Checks are mailed in seven to ten days. This is a phenomenal turnaround time on any submission. Academic or scientific grant applications typically take much longer, but the GBA grant committee is faster. The best feature is that a large portion of revenue from tag sales is utilized by our local associations.

Grant funds are not meant to be used for the entire budget of any local club, nor for any event or item that

yields a profit. Grant funds are designated for education and promotion of the honey bee. The applicant must be a GBA member. When the committee considers any grant, it takes into consideration the amount of money available that month, the relevance of the application of the money, and the number of requests considered in that meeting. Discussions are robust! 🍯

THINKING OF APPLYING FOR A GRANT?



BEE CREATIVE

Use your brainpower to enhance what your club can do.



BEE REASONABLE

Don't expect every expense to get paid.



BEE EDUCATIONAL

How can you teach more people about bees and the good things they do?



BEE THOUGHTFUL

What does your club *really* need?

TO APPLY

[click here](#) and follow all of the instructions. 🍯



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.

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.

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members! This includes things like paying for guest speaker fees, covering start-up costs for beekeeper training programs, setting up a club apiary, purchasing equipment for your club meetings, or staging any sort of program or project that will help educate your members to be better beekeepers.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🐝

License Plate Table Runners Available for Your Next Event

The GBA License Plate fund paid for table runners with the license plate logo. They can be used when selling hive products or at beekeeping meetings to promote sales of the *Save the Honey Bee* plate. Many were given out at the GBA Spring Conference. Let your club president know if you are interested in using one. 🐝



IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

by Kelley Campbell

If you haven't made time to take a beekeeping course, *now is the time to act!* Many of our local clubs have hosted their bee course for 2022, and I'm certain those who attended as a mentor or a student walked away with a confident plan of how they want to proceed in the next season of beekeeping – the much anticipated arrival of the bees and/or splitting of overwintered colonies

Etowah River Beekeepers presented its First Annual ERB Bee School in February. An amazing day was had educating up and coming beekeepers, listening to the speakers (from novice to pro), eating a delicious lunch, and getting some hands-on time with the bees! The weather was gorgeous (*ok, maybe a little windy!*) and the bees certainly showed off.

Turnout was beyond expectations, and ERB is excited to work with attendees going forward. A huge shout out is due to **Clayton Homestead** for hosting the event. Owner, **Joann Schwartz**, has graciously given ERB time/space for the past year for meetings, picnics, holiday dinner, the bee school, plus a home for the ERB North Apiary. *Thank you Joann!*

ERB also extends its thanks to **Josh Fuder**, extension agent in Cherokee County, for being a guest speaker! As always, Josh was informative and fun and Bee School attendees loved the presentation.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Atlanta, MABA, hosted their short course virtually through Zoom (*thank you, GBA and all who have purchased a Save the Honey Bee license plate!*). Nearly 90 people attended. As always, amazing speakers and volunteers presented their wealth of knowledge, and answered

questions afterwards. Mentors and students were assigned to break-out rooms for lunch to give everyone a chance to chat and meet a couple local beekeepers to help them through the learning process. This has been a remarkable event MABA has put on in-person or virtually, and it really helps support new beekeepers. Those who attended the short course had access to the videos for two weeks after the course.

MARCH 2022

- Monthly through August, beginning March 19th thru the **Tara Beekeepers**
- Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Dacula through the **Beekeepers Club of Gwinett County**
- Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Perry through the **Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association**

APRIL 2022

- Four week Saturday course (April 2-23) 9am-12pm in Dawsonville thru the **Amicalola Beekeepers**
- Saturday, April 23rd 8am to 4 pm at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, Ga 30134 thru the **West Georgia Beekeepers**. For information contact Russ King at 678-614-8627.

If your club is offering a bee school that is not listed above, please tell us about it! You may complete this short form, and / or write up a short blurb about what it offers and email it to our newsletter editors for publication in the next newsletter. 🐝

TRICOUNTY BEEKEEPERS FUNDAMENTALS OF BEEKEEPING

TriCounty Beekeepers held its annual, one-day short course, *FUNDamentals of Beekeeping*, last month. 45 people registered for the event and an additional 15 club members were in attendance. The time and energy spent by volunteers made this event a great success! The speaker lineup was top notch. **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** of the UGA Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases kicked off the day with a newbie-friendly look at Honey Bee Biology that included a photo of a newly hatched queen larva just “soaking in the sauce.” Georgia Master Beekeepers **Julia Mahood** and **Bobby Chaisson** gave entertaining and informative overviews of *Pests & Diseases*, and *Working Your Beehive*, respectively.

Two of Georgia's Journeyman Beekeepers were up next. **Olivia M Menard** took the attendees through *A Year in The Bee Yard*. Then, **Harold Lanier** demonstrated *Basic Hive Equipment*, and *Package and Nuc Installations*, all of which he also had available for sale on-site during the class.

After a hands-on smoker lighting demonstration outside, **Chris Smith**, Georgia Certified Beekeeper, and TriCounty Beekeepers club Vice President finished off the day with the ins and outs of *Managing Honey Production: Harvesting & Extracting Honey*.

TriCounty Beekeepers is grateful for the generosity of its sponsors who donated many thoughtful gifts for attendee goody bags and raffle items. The list of sponsors included **Mann Lake**, **Rossman**, **Pigeon Mountain**, **Blue Ridge Honey Company**, **Dadant**, **Better Bee**, **Miller Bee Supply**, **Blue Sky Bee Supply**, and **Lanier Bee Barn**. 🐝





2022 Spring Conference



The GBA Colony: Spring Conference Wrap-Up

by *Dr. Mary Cahill-Roberts*

I was able to thoroughly enjoy the Spring meeting this year of 2022. I was not judging, or speaking and got to see all the vendors, as well as meet up with lots of people. There was a great honey show and yes, I did enter, only taking away a fourth place award, but am very happy that *photography* finally got the best of show. Photography is really a great skill, and the picture of the new wax, eggs in black and white was awesome.

Dr. Keith Delaplane had a great take on pollinators and the upcoming study of how all types of bees are important to the earth. The agriculture community only puts a monetary value on crops, but Dr. D. pointed out that we do not know the *intrinsic* value of what these insects give to our world, by affecting all plants, wild animal life, erosion and our water system. I took away the confirmation of my belief that we are all interconnected, no matter how trivial it might seem. We humans must be caretakers and stewards of our planet. I am happy to be a part of a group such as beekeeping that is doing so, whether beekeepers buy this theory or not.

Dr. Lewis Bartlett, who works at the Georgia bee lab with Dr. Delaplane, gave a great talk on nutrition and really stressed how important clean pollen and nectar are to our bees. I second that as well. He has some preliminary results on his work about how good clean protein (nutrition) supports the bees. I have been speaking to local clubs about nutrition for the past several years, especially good high protein content pollen and am excited to read about this research. At my home, I encourage all my neighbors to

not use pesticides and try to educate them on how bad it is for the bees, all insects, the ground plants, and water system. Again, this comes back to our interconnection to the earth.

Kent Williams, from Kentucky did a fabulous job on his talks. He invited everyone from Georgia to come to his three-day learning course in Kentucky. He spoke about all the things he could do that were right and about all the equipment he could make for half the price, but the equipment was way too heavy for one person to truck around the farm. He also spoke about making mistakes and the importance of continuing to try to get it right. And, as most beekeepers would think, he emphasized that we should never stop learning in life.

This conference was fantastic, and I am looking forward to the fall. We will get to meet with many of our friends, enjoy community and get feedback. Even though beekeeping work may be isolating, beekeeping is social, and we keepers crave our human colony.

I am energized to get started this spring. *I am happy, grateful and excited to be a part of the GBA Colony!* 🐝



ALTAMAHA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION provided snacks for the GBA 2022 Spring Conference. This club, headed by President Sue Barnes, took charge of making more than 300 designer, bee-themed cookies special for this event. Maggie Douglas provided a gluten-free variety so that all conference goers could partake, regardless of dietary restrictions. The cookies were a variety of hexagon shaped cookies glazed in pollen-like colors to resemble the comb from a hive of honey bees. Also, a variety of flower-shaped cookies and bee themed-cookies were provided. 🐝





2022 Spring Conference



You may have been one of the lucky beekeepers to win a door prize or raffle item at the 2022 GBA Spring Conference, but you're not the only one to gain something. With all the great speakers – from Karen Palmer showing how to trap out bees, to Steve Page's beekeeping adventures, to Derrick Fowler preparing you for spring splits – *every* attendee was a winner! 🐝





2022 Spring Artisan Show

OFFICIAL RESULTS

SWEET MEAD

Highly Commendable, Michele Mincey

HONEY BEVERAGES

1st Place, Deb Dewitt

2nd Place, Georgia Zumwalt

3rd Place, Virginia Webb

Highly Commendable, Daphney Glass

Commendable, Pamela Carter

HONEY CAKE (traditional)

2nd Place, David Holloman

Highly Commendable, Lena Franklin

Commendable, Olivia Menard

HONEY CAKE (open recipe)

3rd Place, Georgia Zumwalt

Very Highly Commendable, Aimee Prestridge

Highly Commendable, Brooke Cobb

CONFECTIONS

1st Place, Olivia Menard

2nd Place, Regina Holloman

3rd Place, Pamela Carter

Very Highly Commendable, Cindy Hayes

Highly Commendable, Georgia Zumwalt

(P) Commendable, Lee Arrendale State Prison

CONDIMENTS

1st Place, Aimee Prestridge

2nd Place, Pamela Carter

3rd Place, Georgia Zumwalt

Very Highly Commendable, Mary Cahill-Roberts

Highly Commendable, Olivia Menard

Commendable, Virginia Webb

BEEWAX FLOWERS

Commendable, Georgia Zumwalt

ARTWORK

1st Place, Karen Boger

2nd Place, Holli Kircher

Very Highly Commendable, Pamela Carter

Highly Commendable, Robert McClintock

(P) 1st Place, Lee Arrendale State Prison

CRAFTS

1st Place, Marie Moore

2nd Place, David Holloman

Very Highly Commendable, Paul Cerpovicz

Highly Commendable, Karen Boger

NEEDLECRAFT

1st Place, Gail Bymun

2nd Place, Karen Palmer

3rd Place, Pamela Carter

Very Highly Commendable, Karen Boger

Highly Commendable, Bobby Chaisson

Commendable, Olivia Menard

NOTIONS, POTIONS, & LOTIONS

1st Place, Karen Boger

2nd Place, Kim Higgins

Very Highly Commendable, Pamela Carter

PHOTOGRAPHY (open)

1st Place, Holli Kircher

2nd Place, Heather Shinn

3rd Place, Daphney Glass

Very Highly Commendable, Olivia Menard

PHOTOGRAPHY (essay)

3rd Place, Amber Swearingin

PHOTOGRAPHY (selected topic)

1st Place, Georgia Zumwalt

2nd Place, Olivia Menard

3rd Place, Holli Kircher

Very Highly Commendable, Daphney Glass

Highly Commendable, Amber Swearingin

POETRY

1st Place, Georgia Zumwalt

2nd Place, David Holloman

Very Highly Commendable, Amber Swearingin

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

3rd Place, Kathy Bourn

Highly Commendable, Georgia Zumwalt

Commendable, Olivia Menard

(P) indicates an entry withing the Prison Beekeepers division.



2022 Spring Artisan Show

OFFICIAL RESULTS

FLORAL DISPLAY

1st Place, Karen Boger
2nd Place, Pamela Carter
Very Highly Commendable, Virginia Webb

DECORATIVE DISPLAY

1st Place, Virginia Webb
2nd Place, Pamela Carter

GADGETS

Commendable, Virginia Webb

HONEY JAR LABEL

Highly Commendable, Heather Shinn

BEEKEEPING ANTIQUITIES

1st Place, Virginia Webb
2nd Place, Daphney Glass
3rd Place, Georgia Zumwalt

BEST FOOD ITEM – Olivia Menard, Confections

BEST BEVERAGE – Deb Dewitt, Honey Beverages

BEST ARTS & CRAFTS ITEM – Holli Kircher, Photography (open)

SWEEPSTAKES – Georgia Zumwalt

BEST IN SHOW – Holli Kircher, Photography (open)

Officials:

Steve Genta, Senior Judge (presiding)
Nancy Simpson, Judge
Nancy Deason, Judge
Betty Cosgrove, Judge
Darek Foti, Judge
Brutz English, Show Secretary
Marilynn Parker, Show Chairperson





2022
Spring
Artisan
Show



BLOWING AGAINST THE WIND

by Cory Momany

Phev! The weather this year has been *frightful*. Three of my honey bee stands, located in three different counties, have been knocked over by winds this year. The first was up at Yonah Mountain Vineyard near Cleveland, where 60 mph winds are not so unusual. All of my hives there are always strapped down, and they are inside an electric fence. The first picture shows what two hives looked like when knocked over in August. Note that the straps held, but the stands toppled and took two bee hives with them. The hives stayed largely intact and the bees on the left figured out the new configuration. These bees have overwintered just fine and are still residents. The bees on the right absconded. The hives were like this for at least a week, and I was not notified by the land owners. Note that because the two hives were strapped to the stand, the entire stand and two hives toppled as a unit. There were another eleven stands untouched at Yonah, but the other hives were a lot heavier than these particular boxes of bees.

Going south to Oglethorpe County, in early January with temperatures in the 40s, the wind again toppled two hives- not strapped this time. The thoughtful land owner moved one colony, bees and all, back up on the stand as pictured. The queen of the colony was a Carniolan Kona Hawaii queen. I love the Kona queens as they have been remarkably gentle, which is especially important with land owners that have kids. These girls tolerated the help. No stings and the landowner was a great help. But... the owner called me after five stings from the other colony. Those bees didn't appreciate the help and were in a foul mood. That hive, with a locally-mated queen, was always hot to work. I came in a suit and righted the hive. The hive had damage that required a bit of duct tape to seal. Both colonies have made it through the winter and are now strapped.

The last stand knocked over was at Bear Creek Reservoir in Jackson County. The land owner texted me the picture. The weather event occurred at least three weeks before the picture was sent to me. How the owner missed the hives is still beyond me as I think they are visible from their back porch.

Based on this year's events, I have a few suggestions for other beekeepers:

First, strap your hives to the stands they are on. Strap every hive. I use items called "ratchet tie downs." Get ones with at least 1000 lb strength. Even if the stand falls over, the hives stay together. If just the top cover flies off of a hive, which is not unusual for a wind gust to do, the bees are goners in the winter; and they will abscond in other seasons.

Second, explain to land owners that if they want bees, they need to pay attention to the hives and report back immediately if the hives are toppled or vacant.

Third, consider using "ground anchors" to hold the stands in place in high wind locations. There are a number of different designs. They are commonly used for placing animal traps or anchoring trampolines. These are not tent stakes. I have resisted installing them because they are generally hard to install and harder to remove. Lawn mower blades will be damaged if the anchors are exposed (think about the land owners here- of course if you have



Above (from top): Yonah Mountain (August). Ratchet straps held! Bees survived in the left hive. (middle) Oglethorpe County (early January). No ratchet straps. The box that is open (left-most) has very angry bees. The box to its right was also down, but the bees were gentle and the land owner put it up before I arrived. Oddly, the right-most hive was untouched. (bottom) Bear Creek Reservoir, Jackson County (late January). A second hive, not visible, is also down to the right of the upright hive (which had bees). These were empty boxes ready for the new season, so no bee losses occurred. But the boxes sat this way for weeks.

left their property, maybe a bit of revenge might be considered for having to relocate). Weed whacking around the anchors is more work, and the anchors are a trip hazard. There are a number of styles and sources available that use a drill for placement or removal, so the installation doesn't really have to be a serious issue. Keep in mind that you really need four anchors and the straps must hold the stand such that the stand can not rotate around the straps, defeating the purpose. I consider the ground anchors a desirable option, but ratchet straps are an absolute necessity for beekeepers.

Lastly, pick locations that have wind breaks. The Yonah site is surrounded by a ring of trees, but still a high wind location. The Oglethorpe and Jackson county sites have wide-open areas around them for winds to strike the hives hard. Where I have complete wind breaks near the hives as at my house in Oconee county, I have not ever had wind damage. 🍯

David Hollomon

by Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President

David Hollomon, our March Volunteer of the Month, uses his calendar to make sure that he can manage all of his volunteer activities, many of which are about beekeeping. About thirty-five years ago, he walked out on his porch and found a swarm in a nearby dogwood tree. He got a saw, climbed the tree, cut the limb off with the bees attached, and carried it to the ground. He put the bees in a wooden beer crate with two holes in the top. He set the crate on the ground and the bees stayed there all summer. Although they didn't survive the winter, his encounter was enough to make him consider becoming a beekeeper.

When he retired from his position of thirty-five years as a US Postmaster, he finally had time and space to begin beekeeping. He took classes from Bob Binnie, got bees and got started five years ago. He earned his Journeyman certificate last year, and is now working on his Master Beekeeper certification.

David belongs to the TriCounty bee club. He gives talks, works in the club apiary, mentors, and helps at the short course, among other things. One night, he was late to the bee club meeting. As he walked into the meeting, Bobby

Chaisson, President of TriCounty, congratulated him on being elected treasurer of TriCounty. The secretary handed him all the treasurer "stuff" and he has never been late to a bee meeting again! He has been the treasurer for two years now.

Chaisson says about David, "He is absolutely one of those people who all I have to do is say, 'Hey David, can you...?' and he is already doing it. Every time I turn around he is working on the project I have asked him to help with – he can make it happen. He is always seeking out things he can do to help make the club better. It is so refreshing to have someone so eager to do what you ask them to do."

Being a volunteer in the prison program is a huge gift to GBA. David knew that Julia Mahood was chair of the GBA prison program and approached her after a GBA conference breakout she presented. He needed public service credits for the journeyman certification. He showed up to help her once at Lee Arrendale State Prison, went back for a second time, then a third, and he has been working with her there for about four years now.

He said, "I get to work with Julia, who is wonderful. We
(continued on next page)



Left: David is a talented craftsman who makes hive tools, chef knives, hunting and fishing knives in the blacksmith shed on his property. Above: David frequently mentors new beekeepers.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

take students who have never seen bees, teach them, and help them prepare to pass their certification exams. Another benefit is that working there keeps me sharp, because I am constantly studying the material.”

When asked about how he feels being around the prisoners all the time, he quoted a pastor he once knew when he volunteered at a men’s rehab center. The pastor said, “Don’t judge anybody. Each one of us is two or three bad decisions from being in their shoes.” David likes it that he has now seen some of the women from Arrendale get released from prison and he’s seen them at GBA conferences. It warms his heart to see that these women now have bee hives and are in our bee clubs. *(Note: GBA gives a hive of bees to prison program participants who have been released).*

Julia said, “David has been a wonderful volunteer at Arrendale. It’s a tremendous help to me to have another volunteer to share the load. I feel like he is my ‘partner in crime.’ When you’re teaching in a prison, there are a lot of things to laugh about and moments when your heart is touched. It’s really delightful to be on the same team and share these experiences with him.”

David says that volunteering is a bigger part of his life since he retired. He gets a sense of community out of volunteering. For a while, he mentored young men who had dropped out of high school to help them complete their studies and graduate. COVID disrupted that program, but now the high school has called him to come offer beekeeping instruction on Career Day. He’ll take an observation hive and his wife, Regina, will go with him to continue volunteering both with bees and with these high school students. His volunteering “snowballs and gets bigger. I get more from it than I can describe,” he says.

David lives in Commerce, Georgia, where he has seven acres. He has hives at his house and some at a one hundred acre farm down the road. Regina is also involved, mostly in products of the hive and in the harvesting process. They often invite families over, taking them through the woods to show them what is blooming and where the bees are getting nectar. The families learn about bees, sample hive products, and the children decorate a super. During COVID, they did a virtual hive inspection for grade school students. The number of ways David shares his joy in beekeeping are too many to mention.

In addition to all of that, David is a talented craftsman. He makes hive tools of layered metals that he creates in his blacksmith shed on his property. He loves exploring metal work and is even making chef knives, hunting and fishing knives. His knives need sheaths, so he has also taken up leather work and has created a beautiful sheath for a gorgeous hive tool. The sheath has embossed honeycomb

hexagons on it. “The hive tool,” he says, “is an inexpensive tool that I wanted to make elegant.”

Years ago, David read, “The older you get, the harder it is to make good friends.” That hasn’t been true for him. Being a beekeeper, a volunteer, and a club member have brought him friends that he never imagined having or spending time with. The friends he has made through beekeeping, volunteering, and mentoring have really enriched his life. He encourages GBA members to “give up a little bit of your time, and you will be blessed yourself in these ways.” Beekeepers in Georgia are certainly lucky to have David Hollomon among us! 🐝



Virginia Webb (left), Julia Mahood (center) and David (right) accepting a recent GBA honey show award on behalf of Arrendale Prison entrants.



David shares his love of beekeeping with his Commerce, GA neighbors, including letting local kids decorate his supers.



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Going Horizontal

by **Jon Cordell**, *TriCounty Beekeepers Association*

Ever since Kathy Bourn came to the TriCounty Beekeepers Club meeting and spoke about horizontal hives, I have been ready to try one in my small apiary. They appear to be just the thing for backyard enthusiasts, such as my wife and me.

While visiting my good friend Barry Underwood, also a member of the club, I had an epiphany. You see, Barry has a woodshop and really knows how to use it. I said to Barry "let's build a box for bugs." I stole the hive terminology from Harold Lanier of Lanier Bee Barn.

I had already discovered rough plans online which said "only takes two hours to build." *Ha! Ha!* That might be true if we had purchased all unassembled, milled and pre-drilled parts. We learned it was more complicated when you make all the intricate measurements and cuts yourselves. However, we powered through, and the results came out pretty darned good (if I say so myself).

There are three entrances that will be opened in stages to accommodate the growth of the colony. We used three door hinges for stability. The handles on each side are very handy. We'll start with a five-frame nuc, with five empty frames. The follower board, shown in the picture, will slide to the end of the frames to keep the bees enclosed until time to expand. The inner covers are made with 1x4 pine.

The beauty I see in the long Lang horizontal hive, in a nutshell, is accessibility. The height can be built to any specification: such as for a child or even someone in a wheelchair. It holds thirty-one frames, so expansion ability (without using supers) is easily accomplished. Cover boards allow access to isolated areas of the colony, even though when the lid is raised, the entire colony is at your fingertips: no unstacking, stacking and visits to the chiropractor.

We've ordered a nuc to install in the spring, and we'll be off to the bee races. I hope to tell our success story in a future newsletter. I would love to speak to anyone wishing for more information. 404-353-0951. Email pocoapocofarm.ga@gmail.com 📧



Left: Jon's long Langstroth hive holds 31 frames; cover boards allow access to isolated areas of the colony with no unstacking and stacking (or visits to the chiropractor!). Right: The follower board will slide to the end of the frames to keep the bees enclosed until time to expand; the inner covers are made with 1x4 pine.

Nuc Sale Benefits UGA Honey Bee Lab

Got bees? If not, the University of Georgia's honey bee laboratory can help you out! The lab is selling nucs for March pick-up in Athens. Five-frame nucs are available in plastic boxes for \$200, or in cypress wooden boxes for \$220. Proceeds will help fund the bee lab. To order, send an email to ugabeelab@gmail.com.









It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.

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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.


Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

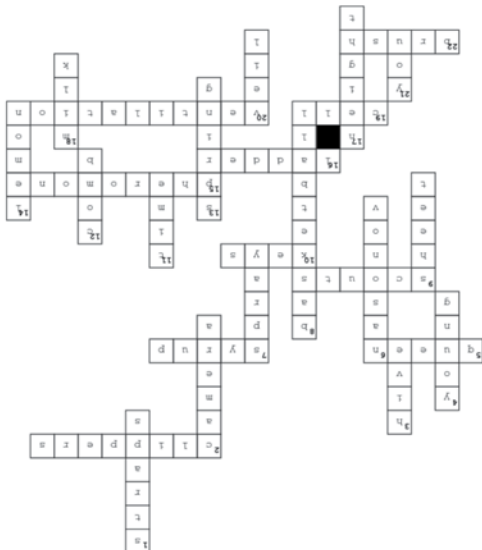
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

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! 🐝



Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

On Monday, February 7th, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association enjoyed **Brutz English**, speaking about first quarter management. He also shared news about changes

happening in certification and licensing of people who want to perform structural removals. With a little extra time, he talked about joining GBA, attending its conferences and participating in the honey shows. As usual, we also had a pile of door prizes and a beekeeping gizmo demonstration. 🍯



Forsyth Beekeepers Club

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club will be touring **Blue Ridge Honey Company** March 26 from 10 am - 2 pm. This is an incredible opportunity, to be able to see the inner workings of such a fabulous facility. **A sneak peek of the tour can be seen online here.** Many beekeepers recognize the owner, Bob Binnie, from his YouTube channel, and are amazed with his abundance of knowledge and ability to relate to every beekeeper and visitor he meets.

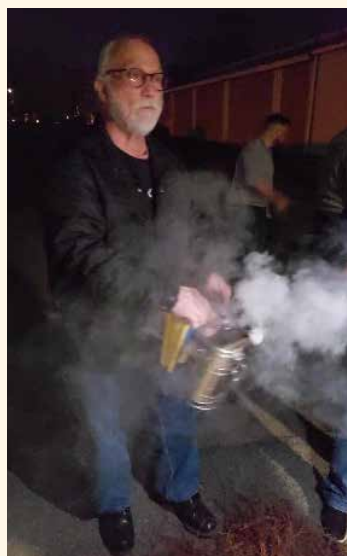


If you would like to **join the Forsyth Club for this personalized tour** as Bob takes us through his state of the art honey bee operation, **please click the link here.** 🍯



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, Feb. 15 for our monthly in-person meeting. President **Jonathan Hayes** reminded members of our upcoming nuc sales and beekeeping 101 class. **Rick Moore** demonstrated how to light a smoker during our mentoring session. The program was entitled "Winter Cluster." Our next meeting will be March 15 at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant located at 1701 Houston Lake Road, Perry. Mentoring begins at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. Our program will be "Plants/Trees for Bees" and the activity will be how to install a nuc. 🍯



Above: (left) HOGBA's secretary, Marie Moore, won first place at the GBA spring conference in the crafts category for her stained glass. (right) HOGBA member Rick Moore, demonstrates how to light a smoker properly.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Nicholas Weaver with **Bee Downtown** Zoomed into the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers' February meeting. Bee Downtown installs and maintains beehives on corporate campuses across the southeast while simultaneously providing year-round employee engagement and leadership development to many leading corporations. 🍯



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

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

In February, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association welcomed **Mary Cahill-Roberts**, who spoke on the timely topic of swarms. The in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting had 87 people in attendance – 30 people in the room, and 57 joining via video call. This was MABA's first effort at presenting a hybrid meeting.



On Tuesday, March 15, MABA will use the hybrid meeting approach again, welcoming **Bob Binnie**, who will speak on the topic of "A Year in Beekeeping." For those wishing to join in person, MABA meets in Heritage Hall, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA. Mentoring time begins at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting following at 7 pm. 🐝

Southwest Georgia Beekeepers Club



SOWEGA presented its annual Beekeepers Bee School to a sold-out house on Feb. 26 at Chehaw Park & Zoo in Albany. 114 future beekeepers were in attendance, while a dozen more were turned away! Included in the participants were ten families planning to keep bees as a family. *So many people love bees and want to know more about beekeeping!* SOWEGA will continue to provide support and education to beekeepers via its hands-on, in-person Bee Lab programs running March thru May. **To learn more and register, click here.**

TriCounty Beekeepers

TriCounty's February meeting featured **Harold Lanier**, UGA Journeyman Beekeeper and owner of Lanier Bee Barn. He talked about swarms, why they happen, how to prevent them and how to (and a few how NOT to) catch swarms. And, as always, plenty of entertaining photos and stories about beekeeping, in general! Our next regular club meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2022, 7pm – 9pm. Master Beekeeper **Julia Mahood** will present on the common pests and diseases related to the honeybees. Weather permitting, we will check the club hives at 6:30 before the meeting. 🐝



Above: (left) Harold Lanier talking on swarm prevention; (middle) 29 members attended the February meeting; (right) Club member Jon Cordell of Poco a Poco Farm & Apothecary showing the long Langstroth hive he built.



Above: (left) A full house of 114 prospective beekeepers listens to a presentation at SOWEGA's bee school; (right) New SOWEGA members completing the bee school received certificates of completion.

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	monicashelp@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, 6pm	in-person	Mar. 7	Choosing a path, having a plan and some basic types of execution for different types of beekeepers (environmental, hobby, sidliner or professional) – Terry Chapman, Guardian Bee Apparel	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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				aron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	in-person	Mar. 8	Keith Fielder, master beekeeper and UGA extension agent	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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				clarkhillbeekeepers@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, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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		Mar. 24	Pesticides and Bees – Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	in-person	Mar. 15	"Plants/Trees for Bees"	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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)

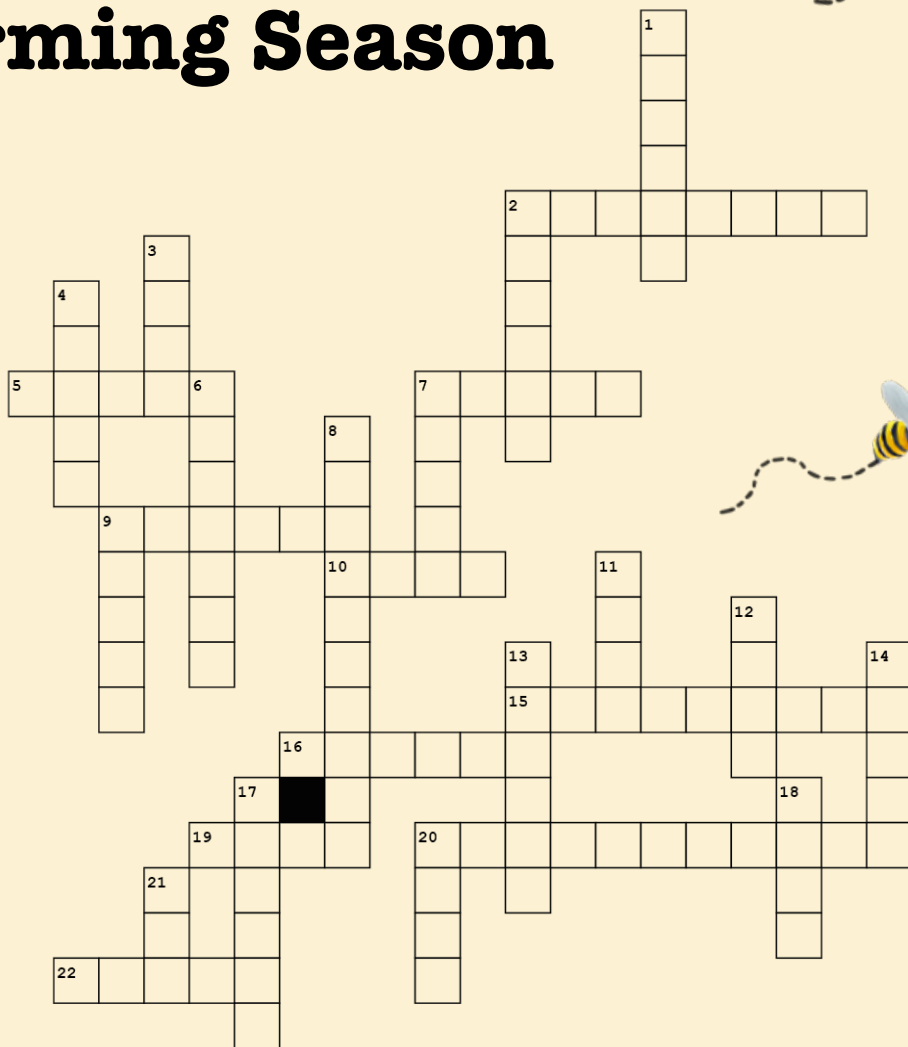
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

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	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid (in-person/Zoom)	Mar. 15	A Year in Beekeeping – Bob Binnie	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm		Mar. 31	Barry Hart discusses his beekeeping business	secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm	in-person	Mar. 3	Seven Ways to Stock a Hive: A Hive Primer for New and Old Keepers – David McDaniel will discuss the many ways to start a new hive.	monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm	in-person	Mar. 14	Common Pests and Diseases of the Honey Bees – Master Beekeeper Julia Mahood	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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 pm (mentoring, 6:30 pm)	in-person	Mar. 17	Panel discussion with experienced members on preparing hives for spring.	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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle

Swarming Season



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 13.

ACROSS:

- Used to cut a branch to drop the swarm into your container
- The leader of the pack. The swarm gathers where she lands
- Sometimes spraying this keeps a swarm calm
- The bees the swarm sends out to look for a new place to live
- Secure these so you know where they are when you get ready to drive away!
- Attracts the bees to the spot where the queen is hanging on the tree/fence/lamp post
- Sometimes needed if the swarm is up high
- Need this number to reconnect with homeowner in case swarm leaves
- What the box needs that you pour the swarm into
- Usually yellow with soft bristles

DOWN:

- To secure the ventilated top to the box
- To record the event!
- Where you will install bees

- Age of 75% of bees leaving in the swarm
- The pheromone the bees emit to tell the other bees that the queen is in your swarm box
- Some homeowners do this ahead of calling a Beekeeper and you need to know if they have
- Often we ask the person reporting the swarm if it is the size of a _____
- To spread under the swarm so you can see the queen if she falls
- Sometimes you have to spend this until swarm fully in box
- Old and dark, this smells good to the bees. Put it in your collection box to make them happy to be there
- Swarm season
- An attractive smell that might keep your bees happy in the swarm collection box
- Ask homeowner this question about the location of swarm
- Plastic container used to hold this. When you cut the top off, this makes a good swarm scoop
- A must have while collecting a swarm to protect your eyes
- Are person collecting the swarm



Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Georgia's beekeepers are celebrating the fourth anniversary of our Save the Honey Bee license plate this spring. However, the work began much earlier, as you can see in the excerpt below:

February 17, 2017 - Legislative Committee Report Submitted by Gail Dean and Tim Doherty

Georgia Beekeeper's Association Specialty License Plate Application Information Sheet

The Legislative Committee Co-chairs were directed to research the process of creating a Georgia Specialty License Plate. We have researched the process thoroughly, begun looking for a legislator to sponsor the bill, and examined other states in the Southeast for "Honey Bee" plates. Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Louisiana and North Carolina (2 separate plates) all have plates. Below is quick review of the requirements, process and timeline.



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Initially, there was not unanimous GBA support for the tag with much concern over the initial investment from GBA and worry about the possible lack of sales. When we all came together, we accomplished an extraordinary thing which has generated a healthy monthly income for GBA and in turn has supported small and large honey bee projects across the state.

The bill passed on March 21, 2018, and Governor Kemp signed it into law on May 3, 2018. The law reads in part, "funds shall be dispersed to the GBA and used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee. Funds are to be used to support association programs, including but not limited to the training and education of both new and experienced beekeepers, prison beekeeper programs, grants to beekeeping-related nonprofit corporations, beekeeping research facilities in this state and projects that encourage public support for the license plate and the activities it funds."

However, we had to wait more than a year to begin selling our plate. Plate sales finally started in July 2019 when the state of Georgia finished installing a new software payment system.

The process took more than two years of hard work by many volunteers. GBA invested \$25,000 to support the initial manufacture of the plate. Many people were part of this process. Getting the plate approved was the work of **Gail Dean, Tim Doherty, Katie Goodman, Brutz English, Derrick Fowler, Virginia Webb** and all of you who donated honey to give to the legislators. **Julia Mahood** won the contest for the design out of more than fifteen entries. **Paul Berry** did a great deal as treasurer with the new payments. **Linda Tillman** and I transferred the data for the initial 1000 plates to the state's database.

We are so grateful to all of you who posted photos of yourself with your plate on Facebook, who talked up the license plate to your friends and neighbors, and who took sample plates to your county license plate offices while we sold the first 1000 plates.

We continue to need your help to sell this license plate to beekeepers and to everyone you know. More Save the Honey Bee tags are bought by non-beekeepers than beekeepers. There are now more than 4000 Save the Honey Bee plates sold and on the road and we hope to double that in the next two years! Thank you for your support and energy for the Georgia Beekeepers Association and all that we are able to do with the income! 🍯

- Gina





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.

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.

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members! This includes things like paying for guest speaker fees, covering start-up costs for beekeeper training programs, setting up a club apiary, purchasing equipment for your club meetings, or staging any sort of program or project that will help educate your members to be better beekeepers.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🐝

Honey Bee License Plate Marks Four Year Anniversary

March 21 marked the fourth anniversary of the passage of the *Save the Honey Bee* license plate bill in the Georgia Senate. Both houses in the Georgia legislature ultimately passed the bill unanimously, and in May 2018, the governor signed it into law. Since then, the windfall of proceeds the license plate sales generate has benefited so many clubs, beekeepers, and researchers. The person who spearheaded the legislative efforts was the co-chair of the GBA Legislative Committee, **Gail Dean**. At this fourth anniversary, Gail is GBA's well-deserving **Volunteer of the Month** (see profile on page 6). 🐝



Linda Tillman (left) and Gail Dean (center) hand Johnny Hudson (right) the \$25,000 check from GBA to begin the manufacture of the Save the Honey Bee license plate.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

2022 GBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

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. The deadline for nominations is June 30th. **To nominate someone, fill out this form by clicking here.** 🐝



GBA's 2021 Beekeeper of the Year, Kathy Bourn (right), accepting her award from Linda Tillman (left), 2020 Beekeeper of the Year.

🐝 Plants for Bees: Common Dandelion 🐝

Dandelions, also known as Irish Daisies, have become the curse of the perfectly manicured lawn. But these early-to-bloom flowers can be a gift for pollinators, especially bees and butterflies. They provide both pollen and nectar.

Dandelions are not a preferred food for honey bees but they can fill a gap when other sources are not available in the spring. The nectar is good, and while the pollen is of poor quality, it’s better than nothing. You’re only likely to see your bees on the flower at specific times of day. Dandelion flowers produce peak pollen between 10 and 11 in the morning when the temperature is right. Then the flower closes in the afternoon.

The dandelion is native to Eurasia but has naturalized in all parts of the Northern Hemisphere. It is a hardy perennial that will grow just about anywhere, regardless of soil conditions, can withstand frost and freezes, and tolerates crowding.

Dandelions are cultivated in some areas and used to make healing tinctures and the potassium-rich greens can be eaten. The bright yellow flowers make way for the familiar globe-shaped seed heads that have entertained generations of

children. The feathery parachute of soft, white hairs is easily carried by the wind and can produce 20,000 seeds.

So, for the sake of your bees, learn to love those dandelions in your lawn! 🐝



IT'S BACK TO (BEE) SCHOOL TIME!

If you haven't made time to take a beekeeping course yet this year, *now is the time to act!* Many of our local clubs have already hosted their bee course for 2022. Here are a couple of additional courses coming up in April:

- Four-week Saturday course (April

2-23) 9am-12pm in Dawsonville offered through the **Amicalola Beekeepers**.

- Saturday, April 23rd 8am to 4 pm at the American Legion Hall, Post 145, 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, Ga 30134 offered through the **West Georgia Beekeepers**. Contact Russ King at 678-614-8627. 🐝



INNOVATION ACADEMY BEE TEAM

by **Mary Beth Hady**, Registrar/Counseling Dept/Beekeeper - Fulton Co. Schools

On March 4th, the Innovation Academy (FCS STEM Magnet High School, Alpharetta, GA) Bee Team met to build and assemble hives for our growing apiary.

We would like to thank our distinguished guest, Gail Dean, Fulton County Board of Education Member, Certified Beekeeper and former president of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, for her presence, enthusiasm and knowledge. Our newly formed IA Bee Team truly

appreciated all her help with the construction of our new hives, our first hive inspection and the loads of valuable information. We all love seeing the great enthusiasm of our future beekeepers!

The Innovation Academy received a Save the Honey Bee License Plate Grant to purchase their original hives and equipment. 🐝



Just Beehave!

by *Kathy Bourn*

We all say that we want our bees to be healthy and productive, but what we really want is for our bees *to behave*. When beekeepers talk about a “hot hive,” they’re not talking about the temperature of the colony or the fact that they look really good. A hot hive means that as soon as you crack the boxes apart, every bee in the hive comes rolling out at you and is hell-bent on harming you. I’m not talking about a few headbutts. I’m talking about a full blown aerial attack.

Now, every hive has a bad day once in a while (don’t we all!). When it’s August and the bees are hot and hungry and cranky (aren’t we all), the girls can make their displeasure abundantly known. Or maybe they’ve been visited the night before by a pesky skunk or racoon. Or maybe the neighborhood kids have been chucking rocks at the hive every afternoon. These are situations where the beekeeper can get torn up working the hive one day, yet go to the same hive three days later and find them well behaved.

So what can you do with a colony that just won’t behave? Most beekeepers suggest that you re-queen the colony. Of course to do that you need to find and kill the old queen in a hive full of hotter than hell bees, and then install a new queen and hope that they aren’t so mean that they kill her. It usually doesn’t work to just let them make a new queen since she will generally have the same genetics as the old queen. Plus, we know that daughters can be just as mean as mothers.

Another idea is to split the hive down to several nucs. The theory here is that each colony will be much smaller and this also gives you a chance to give each nuc a new queen. If you have queen cells from your well behaved hives, give them to these nucs.

If you have the land, you can banish the hive to the far end of your property. The goal is to get them away from civilization and let them be as mean as they like to the other wildlife. Of course, hot hives are a bigger problem for urban beekeepers. If you have bees that chase you out of your garden or sting you or your neighbors for no good reason,

they must be dealt with. If any of the above ideas don’t work, there is always ethanasia (i.e., a bath in soapy water).

One more option is to give the hot colony to another beekeeper who you really don’t like all that much. I’m not advocating for this, but it is an option!

I currently have a colony that I call Voldemort (or “the colony that must not be named”). These are bees that were taken out of a building and seem to be antisocial, at least toward me. Now these bees do not bother me when I’m away from the hive. They only have an attitude problem when I try to inspect. My plan is to treat them the same way I treat people who don’t behave: I ignore them. I’m going to stack boxes on the hive until the flow ends and then take most of the honey that these little beasts have produced. Of course I’ll be suited up like I’m deep sea diving and I dare them to get at me.

The only saving grace I’ve found to a hot hive is that, for some reason, they seem to be great honey producers. Maybe they’re so mean that the other bees just let them have whatever they want! 🍯



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Gail Dean

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

The anniversary of the passage of the Save the Honey Bee license plate bill in the Georgia Senate was on March 21, 2018, four years ago, and the governor signed it into law in early May of that year. Both houses in the Georgia legislature passed the bill unanimously. GBA has received at least \$7,000 to \$10,000 a month since the license plate sales began in earnest in September 2019. This windfall of money has benefited so many clubs, beekeepers, and researchers. The person who spearheaded the legislative efforts was the co-chair of the GBA Legislative Committee, Gail Dean. At this fourth anniversary of the license plate bill passage, Gail is our well-deserving Volunteer of the Month.

Gail has been keeping bees for about eight years. In 2014, a friend invited her to dinner and served biscuits with honey with the meal. Gail had never tasted honey that delicious and found out that it came from her friend's beehives in the backyard. "I ate too many biscuits with honey," Gail said, with a grin. She was hooked and set out to become a beekeeper herself.

Gail is the sole true beekeeper in her family. Her husband and children like to taste the honey but are not involved in keeping the bees. Bob, her husband, does help when it's

time to harvest, to give him fair credit.

She began with hives at their lake house in North Carolina on Nantahala Lake. These colonies died when she moved them to Atlanta. Since then she has maintained her apiary only in North Carolina. She gets two harvests a year: mountain wildflower in the spring and sourwood in the fall. She spends time every month at her mountain house and keeps up with the bees well.

Gail has been a member of MABA since 2014. Over these eight years, she has also belonged to several other clubs. She ended her two year term as president of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association at the end of 2021. Because of COVID, she only led two in-person meetings and the rest were all online. To Gail's credit, MABA's monthly online meetings frequently had an attendance of more than 100 people.

Gail has held many volunteer positions in the beekeeping world, but the one with the most impact was the passage of the license plate bill under her leadership. In her professional life, Gail has served on the Fulton County School board for *twenty-two years*. This long experience gave her the legislative knowledge that she needed to know
(continued on next page)



The passage of the bill approving Georgia's Save the Honey Bee license plate would not have happened without Gail Dean's legislative know-how and unflagging efforts.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

exactly how to get the license plate bill passed.

While many volunteers were involved with the passage of the bill, Gail's information, organization and familiarity with the legislature shaped everything we all did to get it passed. When the idea of a tag was first brought up at a GBA Board meeting, Gail volunteered. She had done a lot of work at the legislature through the years and knew where to go to do the research and to shepherd a bill through the process.

She spent hours and hours researching the Georgia code and writing the bill. We had a contest to select the design for the plate and Gail served as one of the judges. The designs were assigned random numbers to keep the designers secret. Gail had the great idea to print each of the top selections in license plate size to hold up to the back of cars to see if it could be read from twelve feet away.

Once the design had been selected, we needed a sponsor in the House of Representatives to introduce the bill. Bobby Chaisson invited Gail to come to a TriCounty meeting to meet Emory Dunahoo, a beekeeper, a member of his club, and a representative in the House. Emory agreed to sponsor the bill and worked hard for us.

Gail wanted the legislators to have an experience of Georgia honey like she had at her friend's house in 2014. She solicited honey donations from all over the state and got enough honey donated to present a jar of honey to each

legislator, each mail handler in both legislative houses, and the governor. The honey had to be bagged, labeled, and delivered to the Capitol – *all by volunteers*. On the voting days, a group of beekeeper volunteers attended the legislative sessions in the House and in the Senate. The passage of this bill would not have happened without Gail's unflagging efforts.

In addition to her legislative efforts for GBA, Gail also volunteers as a honey judge. While there is sometimes an honorarium for judging, the job is still a huge volunteer effort. Watching her judge, which I did at a Clarkesville honey show, is a lesson in how to jar your honey. She is a very careful honey judge, providing education and feedback for the entrants. Gail has even judged at Apimondia (the world honey bee association).

Gail's name shows up a lot on Facebook where she often promotes upcoming MABA and GBA events. She sees social media as a great way to promote the license plate and takes every opportunity to do so.

The triumph of the license plate passage was such a significant moment in her volunteering. Gail said, "I knew that if the license plate were successfully passed, it would change beekeeping across Georgia. And now, with all the grants to individuals, clubs and researchers, beekeeping is on steroids in Georgia."

Beekeeping in Georgia has a champion volunteer in Gail Dean. *We cannot thank you enough, Gail!* 🍯



Gail also volunteers as a honey judge, providing education and feedback for honey show entrants. Gail has even judged at Apimondia (the world honey bee association).



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

Rubbermaid® Swarm Trap

by Kathy Bourn

Okay, I admit that the first batch of swarm traps I made a few years ago are way too heavy. It seemed like a good idea at the time to make them out of scrap lumber that I had. After hoisting them up and down trees, however, I'm rethinking the wisdom of making them out of wood.

So I looked around and saw a few old Rubbermaid® totes that I've had for years. The ones I have are the 18 gallon size and measure 24" X 16" X 16 1/2". They're lightweight, they have a lid and they fit eight frames. Why not give them a try?

I put a thin piece of plywood in the bottom and glued and screwed a couple of additional pieces for the frames to rest on. I strapped the frames together with pieces of wood so they would stay in place. I like using the metal entrance discs because you can close the entrance easily. I put one on the flat side of the tote and slid a piece of half inch hardware cloth behind it across the hole to keep the birds out.

The bee space is not perfect, but I'm hoping to transfer the swarm before they make too much of a mess in there. I also thought about spray painting the tote for fear that the rubber lets light into the trap but I'll leave that for another experiment.

I baited the trap with lemongrass oil and put in a piece of old dark brood comb and some beeswax. I'm hoping the bees don't mind the smell of the tote if I add some familiar hive smells. My plan is to put these traps only as high as I can reach, so I made a wooden platform and screwed it to a tree about seven feet high. I strapped it to the platform facing south toward my hay field.

It would be great to get almost free bees in an almost free trap. I'll let you know what the scout bees think of it. 🐝



Honeybee Democracy

by *Thomas Seeley*

Book review by *David Hinton*

If you had the good fortune to participate in Nashville Area Beekeepers Association's March Zoom meeting, you were able to hear a remarkable presentation from a man who is truly one of the world's greatest experts on honey bees in general and honeybee swarms in particular. Congratulations to the NABA speakers committee for lining up Dr. Thomas D. Seeley!

Dr. Seeley's presentation was a thought-provoking examination of the intelligent decision-making, following democratic principles, employed by honey bees in deciding to swarm and exploring the organized way that they make the swarm happen. If his presentation fascinates you like it did me, then I recommend his book *Honeybee Democracy*, the culmination of Dr. Seeley's thirty years of scientific research on swarming intelligence.

From a practical beekeeping standpoint, *Honeybee Democracy* provides helpful insights for the amateur beekeeper on how to anticipate swarms. For example, here's a nugget of information that I have never read elsewhere: "But what is perhaps the most striking change in the workers just before swarming is their greater lethargy. Many of these laggards hang quietly on the combs, while others rest in a thick cluster outside the hive entrance, giving the alert beekeeper a helpful warning that swarming is imminent."

In the book's Introduction, Seeley tells his readers the real significance of the swarm that we as beekeepers work so hard to prevent: "But honey bees also provide us another great gift [besides honey and beeswax], one that feeds our brains rather than our bellies, for inside each teeming beehive is an exemplar of a community whose members work together to achieve shared goals. We will see how these little six-legged beauties have something to teach us about building smoothly functioning groups, especially ones capable of exploiting fully the power of democratic decision-making."

The above quote not only shows Seeley's love for honeybees ("these little six-legged beauties"), but more importantly, presents readers with a truly radical notion: that honeybees can actually teach us something about how to make democracy work more effectively! Who would have thought that thirty years of research into honeybee swarms would end up in the world of political science and organizational theory?

Seeley defends his exalted view of honeybee democracy by noting that "...a colony's choice of its living quarters is made not by a few bees acting alone but by several hundred bees

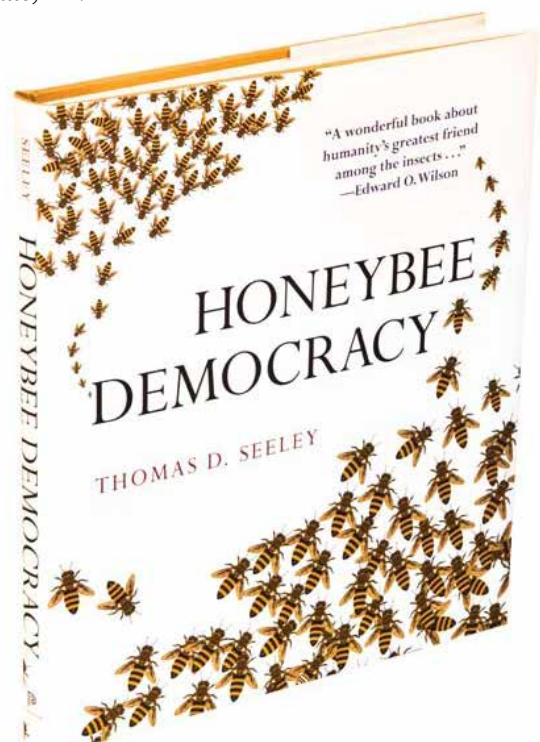
acting collectively. This book is about how this sizable search committee almost always makes a good choice... [they] achieve their collective wisdom by organizing themselves in such a way that even though each individual has limited information and limited intelligence, the group as a whole makes first-rate collective decisions."

In the book's final chapter, Dr. Seeley ventures out of his neuro-biology comfort zone to explain how he believes his research on honeybee swarms can actually guide humans in their democratic decision-making processes: "Let us now consider what lessons we humans can learn from honeybees to structure a decision-making group so that the knowledge and brainpower of its members is effectively marshaled to produce good collective choices."

Seeley presents five fascinating lessons on how swarm intelligence could be applied to everything from deciding to invade Iraq to how to conduct New England town meetings and university academic department meetings.

Curious about those five lessons? I hope so – *but you'll have to read the book to get them!* 🐝

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife *Dolly Carlisle* are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.








It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.


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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

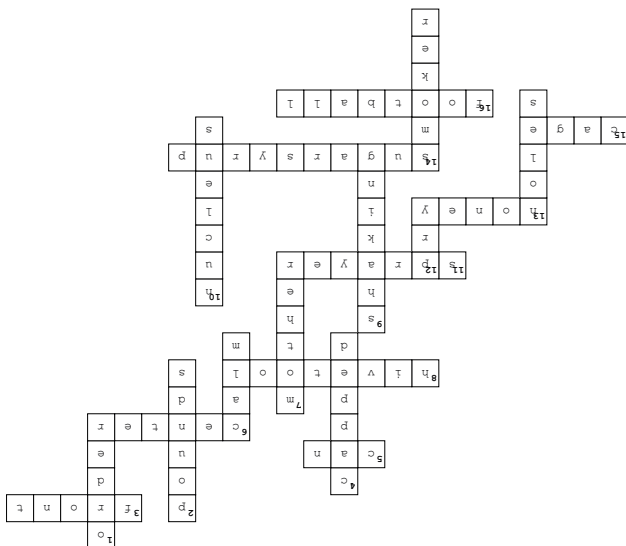
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



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! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

ASK AUNT BEE!



Comb and Honey Solar Melting?

There is a method of extracting honey that involves melting the comb containing honey inside a solar melter. It's done by getting a portable cooler big enough to put a bucket inside. You cut the honey comb and put it in the bucket and put a piece of glass over the cooler. Put it in full sun until the wax is melted. Take the bucket inside and let it cool. The next day the wax will fully harden and you can remove it and just have the honey remaining.

Question:

Does this method of extracting damage the honey considering you have no control over the temperature that it will reach? Can the sun heat the honey enough to change it?

Answer:

Anytime wax and honey are separated with enough heat to make the wax liquid, all aspects of the honey are affected negatively. This would include taste, color, aroma, enzymes and more. It's not just the



Bob Binnie

temperature doing the damage. Something happens when the wax becomes liquid while in contact with the honey. That doesn't mean you can't use it; it just means it won't be as good.

Many commercial beekeepers separate cappings from honey with equipment using heat to melt the wax, and when offered this honey, I'm always able to tell the difference. Although some might argue this point, to me, there is no doubt or debate.

– Bob Binnie

Blue Ridge Honey Company

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
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Kelley Campbell	Metro Atlanta	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	678-230-4860
Mike Conner	Metro Atlanta	mike.a.conner@gmail.com	770-815-3046
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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
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Kathleen Bourn	Newsletter Editor	kathleenbourn@gmail.com	404-219-7200
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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

Coweta Beekeeper Association

Coweta Beekeeper Association Vice President, **Corey Matheson**, put on a great workshop in February, demonstrating box and frame assembly and how to apply wax to plastic foundations. We hope to see members continue to participate in our workshops throughout the year, and we have a great one coming up this month about how to install package bees.



Corey Matheson demonstrating box and frame assembly

Brutz English, our club's Georgia Beekeepers Association (GBA) Director, presented a timely talk called "Are you Ready for Swarm Season?" at our March 14th meeting. Some of our local beekeepers are already catching swarms. CBA president, **Heather Shinn**, noticed activity on one of her empty hive boxes, and it ended up being a swarm moving in. Coweta Beekeeper Association meets at the Coweta UGA Extension Office, 255 Pine Rd. Newnan, GA. Please use the parking lot behind the building. 🐝

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

On February 26, FBC hosted our 22nd Annual Bee School. This year we had 20 existing members, 32, new members and 12 mentors on hand. This may have been our biggest class yet. Our school is based on *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Dr. Keith Delaplane. We covered all the important topics to get new beeks up and running in the crazy world of beekeeping.

Guest speakers included: **Kelley Campbell, Butch Shelton, Joe Renta, and Teri Meyer**. Break-out sessions were presented by **Andy Bailey, Terry Holbrook, Nedal Shawkat, and Bobby Thanepohn**. This event was held at the Army National Guard. A big thank you to Jay Hendrix for arranging the meeting space for our club. Club president Ray Supple and club secretary Kelley Campbell did a wonderful job rounding up prizes for our class.

This event would not have been such a huge success without **Bill Dunn's** organizational skills. Special shout out to **Ann Shelton** and her hospitality committee members for obtaining, arranging, organizing the food for the event and the clean up afterwards.

Day 2 of Bee School (Hive Side) is scheduled for April 16th (weather permitting). 🐝

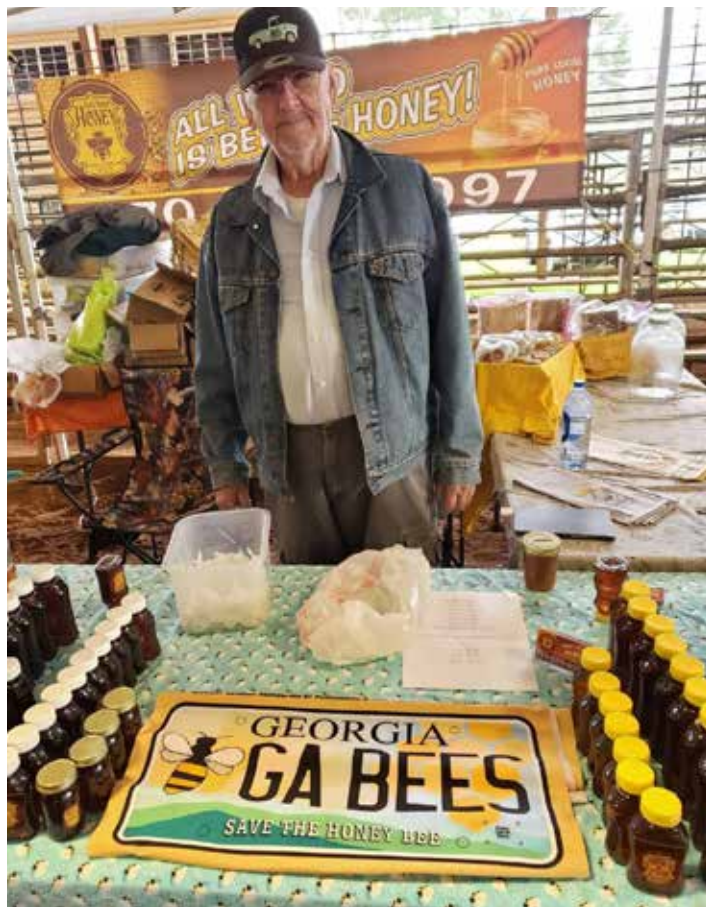


Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

At the March meeting of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association, **Harold Lanier** spoke about hive equipment. His presentation included interesting anecdotes about historical hives used by several different cultures and some history about modern designs. He wrapped up with various sizes of Langstroth boxes, beekeeping techniques with them and advantages of each. 🐝



Beekeepers of Gilmer County



Georgia Junkies is a bi-annual shopping affair in Cartersville for handcrafted items and recycled goods from industrial to farmhouse chic. **John Tackett** from Beekeepers of Gilmer County sold his hive products at the March 18-20 event and graciously displayed the new GBA honey bee license plate banner. The GBA License Plate fund paid for these table runners with the license plate logo to promote sales of the Save the Honey Bee plate. Many were given out at the GBA Spring Conference. Let your club president know if you are interested in using one. 🐝

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 Club of Gwinnett County

In March, the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County held its annual one-day Beginner Beekeeping School in Dacula. The preset class limit of 40 students was quickly exceeded, but with the help of our amazing club members, the school day went smoothly. Students learned about their first year as a beekeeper, beekeeping equipment, honey bee biology, placement of hives, issues facing bees and themselves as beekeepers, harvesting honey, and products of the hive. Students learned to light a smoker and to install a nuc of live honey bees into a beehive. All students went home with a Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County canvas tote bag full of beekeeping information and products, as well as **Dr. Keith Delaplane's** *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book. Almost all of the class went home with bee-themed door prizes donated by the club's awesome supporters. Dr. Delaplane will be at Gwinnett's next club meeting on April 12. Follow the club's future activities on Facebook. 🐝



Southwest Georgia Beekeepers Club



In March, SOWEGA Beekeepers Club Director **James Morgan** gave presentations to 118 kids and 11 adults from Richmond Hill Middle School (Bryan County) for **Biodiversity Day** at Chehaw Park & Zoo in Albany. His presentations focused on bee anatomy, life cycle, caste system, swarms, mating, waggle and round dance, royal jelly, hive box and beekeeping equipment. 🐝

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, March 15 at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program, "Plants for Bees," was presented by Master Gardeners **Kathy Shelton** and **Emily Heath**. They discussed native trees, shrubs and plants which serve as good sources of pollen and/or nectar. The activity for the meeting included how to install a nucleus colony into a Langstroth hive. HOGBA sponsored a Beekeeping 101 class on March 19 with 30 attendees. The class included classroom instruction, videos and hands-on time in the apiary. Our next meeting will be April 19th. The mentoring session begins at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at 7 pm. To learn more about HOGBA, visit our website at www.hogba.org. 🐝

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

March is the time of year when beekeepers have swarms on the brain. If you can't prevent swarming, the next best thing is to catch your escaping bees. Or better yet, catch someone else's bees. At the March 3 meeting of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, **Drew Harvey** (below, left) presented some of the best ways to capture homeless honey bees. He discussed swarm traps, how to build them and how to bait them. We also congratulated our LHBA member **Holli Kircher** (below, right) on her Best of Show win at the GBA Spring Artisan Show. 🐝



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

In March, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association welcomed guest speaker **Bob Binnie** to its monthly meeting. Binnie, owner of **Blue Ridge Honey Company**, shared his knowledge with 49 in-person attendees and 52 others joining via Zoom. He spoke on the topic of "A Year in the Beeyard," taking participants through his process of managing bees, what he does when, and why.

MABA To Offer UGA Certified Beekeeper Testing

The **University of Georgia Master Beekeeper Program** gives participants the opportunity to increase their knowledge of all things dealing with bees and beekeeping. The Certified Beekeeper level is the first step of a four-step program. The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association is honored to be able to offer local testing for the UGA Master Beekeeper Program's Certified Beekeeper level. If you've been keeping bees for at least one full year, you are eligible to sit for the **Certified Beekeeper Test** to be conducted on May 7, 2022 at **Academe of the Oaks** in Decatur, GA. Testing will be by appointment and will take approximately one hour to complete. The cost is \$50 and **you can register 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	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall, 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6pm		Apr. 4 Apr. 30	Welsh Honey Judge Brutz English; ABA Field Day, April 30, 9am-12pm. at Rich Apiaries, 77 Skid Rich Rd., Collins, GA 30421	grnhousecrazy@yahoo.com	Toombs
Amicalola Beekeepers	Dawson County Extension Office 298 Academy Ave., Dawsonville, GA 30534	3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm			This month, our 4-week Saturday Bee School runs April 2-23, 9am-12pm	marcushvac2@gmail.com	Dawson
Appalachian Beekeepers	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Apr. 12	Dr. Keith Delaplane	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				tjsturdivant61@gmail.com	Burke
Cartersville Beekeepers Guild	241 Douthitt 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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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				clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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		Apr. 28	Dr. Cory Momany of Flying Pigs Honey	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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		Apr. 7	More Than Just Honey – Holli Kircher, winner of the Best in Show award at the GBA Spring Artisan Show	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid (in-person/Zoom)	Apr. 19	Observation Hives – Dan Long	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm		Apr. 28	“What To Do In The Bee Yard This Month” – Barry Hart, Hart Honey Farms, Fargo GA	secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm		Apr. 18	General Queen Rearing And Hopkins Method Queen Rearing – Joe Conti and Dan Long (co-presenting)	ocbceclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashp@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chawah Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty 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	Troup County Agriculture Building 21 Vulcan Materials Road LaGrange, GA 30240	3rd Monday, 7pm		Apr. 18	“Splits For Spring And Summer” – Steven Page	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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 pm (mentoring, 6:30 pm)		Apr. 21 Apr. 23	Preparing your Hives for Spring” – Bob Binnie, Blue Rige Honey Company Beekeeping Short Course, 8 am	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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle

Installing a Nuc or Package of Bees

You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at: crosswordlabs.com/view/installing-a-nuc-or-a-package-of-bees



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 10.

ACROSS:

- When some bees still remain in the package or box after installation simply set the container in _____ of the hive
- The sugar syrup is contained in this in a package
- The place in the hive box where you place the five frames from the nuc
- Instrument used to pry frames up in nuc box (two words written without a space)
- Used to mist a package of bees with to calm them before installation
- The comb in a nuc should contain some of this as food for the bees
- A one to one mixture that you feed newly installed bees (two words written as one)
- The home of the queen in a package
- The shape of a good brood pattern in a nuc looks like this

DOWN:

- When you move the frames from the nuc to the hive box, they should be in the same _____ as they were in the nuc box
- A package should weigh either three or five of these
- Seeing brood in this state lets you know that more bees will be emerging to add to the population
- How you want the bees and yourself to feel during installation
- In a package, the queen is not this to the bees in the package. In a nuc, she is the _____ to the bees in the nuc.
- One way of pouring the package into the hive
- What nuc is short for
- What you have to do to get the top off of the package container
- What are poked in the bottom of the food container that comes with the package
- This device used in every hive inspection is NOT used during hive installation of either a nuc or package



Spilling The Honey

GEORGIA
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GBA has a new website!

Harvest Hoffman has been our web master since 2016. She handled everything for the GBA site as a wonderful volunteer for many years. We thank her for her all those years of service to GBA and for providing information to the general public who found what they needed and discovered who to ask for their honey bee and related questions. Harvest took on a big job when she created that website and then maintained it for years.

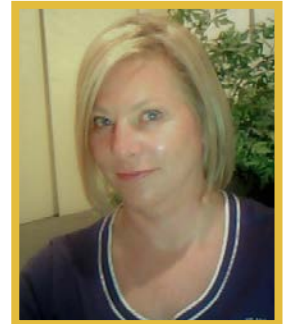


We have a passionate group who investigated updating our website and using our Wild Apricot membership software to do it. They discovered that using Wild Apricot will solve many member management problems and will streamline how we manage our webpage.

Many thanks go to **Bobby Chaisson**, who identified areas to improve our online presence, **Julia Mahood** and **Monica Sheppard** who worked page by page to add color and new design, **Linda Tillman** who edited everything, and to our new Web Master, **Jonathan Hayes**, who led the team and has given his gift of tech support to GBA generously. Bobby tells me that they worked so well together, they didn't have any hurdles. Great things happen when great people share their knowledge and passion.

They worked for hours to transform the website, and in so doing they are responsible for integrating our members' profiles and getting more effectiveness out of our Wild Apricot platform. What this means is that our members will update the GBA website when they update their own profiles. This is far more efficient for the GBA officers and will be more useful to our members. *Update your GBA profile today!* 🐝

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

We need you to review and update your GBA profile

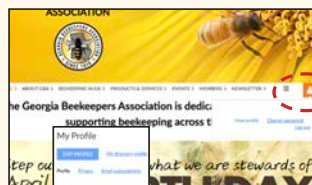
Updating your GBA Profile is quick & easy! Sign into your Wild Apricot account and update your profile (you must know and use your email and password; if not, click the **Forgot Password** link):



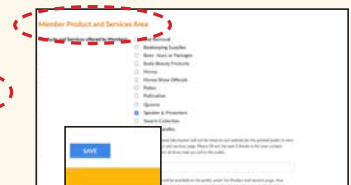
1. From GBA's home page (gabeekeeping.com), **click the blue login button.**



2. Enter your user name and password and follow the directions (if you don't remember your password, click the **Forgot Password** link)



3. Review your Wild Apricot profile to make sure your information is correct. (To see your profile, **click on the orange person icon** on the right side of the page. Then click the blue edit profile button.)



4. You can **edit or add to your profile** by including a photo, a bio, and listing that you sell honey, or give talks, etc. (under **Member Product and Services Area**). When finished, click the blue save button at bottom left.



*Beekeeping
Institute*

Since 1992

Celebrating our

**30TH
YEAR**

We hope you will join us for our 30th Beekeeping Institute. Featuring more than 90 bee-related lectures and workshops, an improved honey show with \$1,000 in cash prizes, local and national vendors, training and certification for the Georgia Master Beekeeping Program, Welsh Honey Judge, and the newly added Honey Bee Control and Removal Operator. This year will also include a Thursday cake and ice-cream anniversary gathering, along with a Friday night social and dinner, with live music and awards.

Please visit our website for program, registration and accommodation information at,
<https://bees.caes.uga.edu/yhc-uga-beekeeping-institute.html>



May 18-21, 2022 • Young Harris, Georgia

A meeting you don't want to miss!

**Young
Harris**
COLLEGE
EST 1886



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Honey Bee 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.

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.

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members! This includes things like paying for guest speaker fees, covering start-up costs for beekeeper training programs, setting up a club apiary, purchasing equipment for your club meetings, or staging any sort of program or project that will help educate your members to be better beekeepers.

To apply, **click here and follow all of the instructions.** 🐝

Your Ad Here!

How great it was to open up the April 6th issue of *The Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin* and see this big bright beautiful ad for the GBA Save the Bee license plate. Obviously, the license plate advertising committee is on the job! Thanks to **Sophia Price, Chair, Derrick Fowler, Luke Ellerman, Georgia Zumwalt, Bob Binnie, Katie Goodman, and Gina Gallucci.** 🐝



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

2022 GBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

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.

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:

- **Kathleen Bourn**, Chair - Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association
- **Douglas Carter** - Twin Rivers Bee Club
- **Gail Dean** - Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association
- **Emily Heath** - Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association
- **Bruce Morgan** - Lake Country Beekeepers
- **Stanley Okon** - SOWEGA Beekeepers
- **Sophia Price** - Chattooga County Beekeepers

The committee will first ensure that all nominations are eligible. Then, after the June 30th deadline, 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. 🐝



Beekeeper of the Year Recipients

2021	Kathleen Bourn
2020	Linda Tillman
2019	Bobby Chaisson
2018	Julia Mahood
2017	Brutz English
2016	Bill Owens
2015	Roseanne Dorn
2014	Bear Kelley
2013	Bruce Morgan
2012	Cindy Hodges
2011	Fred Rossman
2010	Robert Brewer
2009	Keith Fielder
2008	Jim Harris
2007	Martha Kiefer
2006	Cindy Bee
2005	Jennifer Berry
2004	Durant Warwick
2003	Bob Binnie
2002	Carl Webb
2001	JM Sikes
2000	Evelyn Williams
1997	BJ Weeks
1996	PN Williams
1995	Dr. Keith Delaplane
1993	Virginia Webb
1992	Jessie McCurdy
1984	Reg Wilbanks

BEE-MERGENCY RESPONDER:

Bees Stranded At Airport Prompt Rescue Effort

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

Talk about going above and beyond! On Sunday, April 24, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA) board member Edward “Bean” Morgan, Jr. received a desperate call for help from Sarah McElrea, a commercial beekeeper based in Alaska. She explained that some 200 packages of bees were supposed to have flown directly from Sacramento, CA to Anchorage, AK four days earlier. Delta re-routed the shipment due to a mechanical failure. The bees were already days behind schedule in arriving at their destination. Now, her wayward bees were stuck on the tarmac at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Not knowing who to contact, she reached Ed, a MABA swarm chaser, via the club’s Swarm Hotline, staffed by “swarm commander” Dave Marshall. She asked Ed to drive to the airport and see what he could do to help get her bees back on a plane and into the air as quickly as possible. Ed dropped what he was doing in his own apiary. He would spend the rest of day at the airport working with employees at the cargo terminal and fielding calls from MABA members willing to assist into the night.

Simply finding the bees at the vast and confusing air cargo facility was the first hurdle to overcome. Once on the scene, Ed quickly saw this was not the sort of simple bee-wrangling job he often handles. The situation was dire. Bees (either escapees or local bees attracted by pheromones) were buzzing around the cargo container, which fearful airport workers had relocated outside in the sun. Sadly, with temperatures reaching the low 80s that afternoon, many of the bees succumbed to the heat.

After assessing the situation, Ed determined that there were approximately 10 packages completely dead. He quickly realized that those still containing viable bees weren’t going to be able to wait for a three p.m. flight to Alaska out of Hartsfield the following day. He conferred via phone with master beekeeper and past MABA president Julia Mahood, and then discussed the situation with Sarah. Ed broke the news: what was left of her bees in Atlanta weren’t worth shipping. Accepting the reality of the situation, she was willing to forfeit her bees in hopes local beekeepers here might be able to nurse some of the survivors back to health.

That’s when the clarion call went out to MABA members to assist ASAP. MABA president Jimmy Gatt used the club’s email and social media channels to alert its membership to the situation. His headline blared: “EMERGENCY! MABA members needed to pick up free package bees from the Atlanta Airport.”

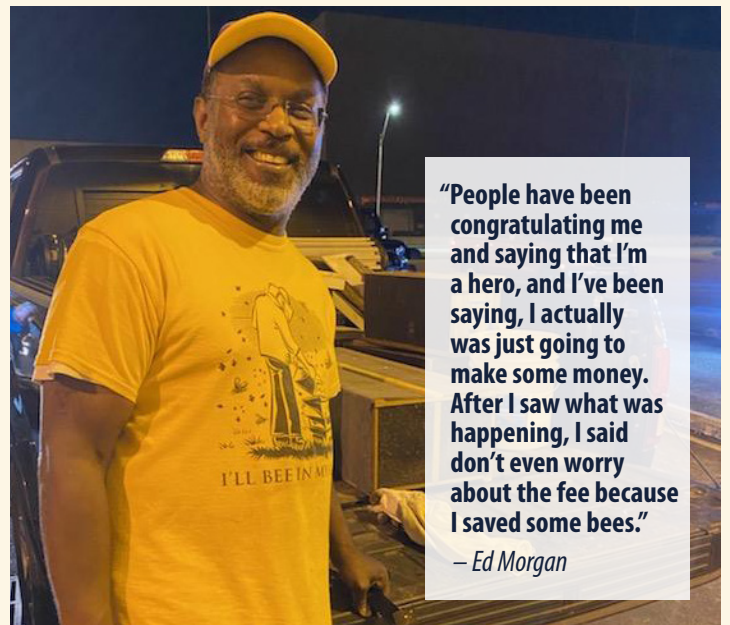
Ed frantically answered calls. Providing precise directions to his location was challenging. Yet within an hour, some 20 beekeepers arrived to stake their claims to the free insects; the bees were doled out first come, first served.

All the surviving bees were distributed. According to one of the responders, Meghan McCloskey, an environmental science teacher and beekeeper from SPARK Elementary in Atlanta, the

beekeepers on the scene worked quickly, “ripping open packages of dead bees and looking at the queens” for signs of life.

It was 11:30 pm before Ed himself opened two packages he brought home to his own apiary. One queen was alive, the other dead (queen loss was an experience shared by many of those who raced to the airport to help out). Ed combined the two packages in hopes of creating a viable colony. While he wished for even better results, some of the airport bees were saved and Ed feels great about trying to help a fellow beekeeper in need from Alaska.

The last thing Ed expected when he headed to the airport that day was to find himself in the middle of a national news story. Yet, Ed and several other MABA members on the scene were interviewed by local NPR affiliate **WABE**. The story was then picked up by **WSB TV**. *The New York Times* followed, along with the *Miami Herald*, *Alaska Public Media*, *The Sacramento Bee* and many others. 🍯



“People have been congratulating me and saying that I’m a hero, and I’ve been saying, I actually was just going to make some money. After I saw what was happening, I said don’t even worry about the fee because I saved some bees.”

– Ed Morgan



FRANTIC FLYING: A SWARM REDIRECTED

By *Mary Cahill-Roberts, DNP, GA Master Beekeeper*

I was out in the bee yard the other day and saw some frantic flying in front of one of my hives. The sky was a piercing blue. A soft breeze carried the floral bouquet of wax and nectar. As I walked, the humming sound of the bees was generated by the literal dance of an imminent swarm. If you observe a swarm when it is about to begin, it is amazing to watch. I quickly grabbed my veil, hive tool and a nuc box and opened up the top of the bulging hive. I saw eight deep frames covered with bees moving in and out of the woodenware.

Slowly and methodically, I started my inspection. After three frames, I found the queen. Her long brown abdomen was full and she did not seem interested in laying. She was moving rapidly on a fully capped frame of bees, her attendants hectically trying to keep up. The cappings were that caramelized brown color that indicates the maturing bees underneath have a few more days to cook until they chew their way out of their cocoons.

I placed the frame with the queen and all her bees into the nuc box. I then went through the rest of this expansive hive and pulled four more frames of bees for the nuc, gathered them up

and moved them away from the mother hive. Slowly the activity outside the entrance diminished and the locomotive sound of humming grew quiet. I went through the rest of the boxes to find the swarm cells, those long golden-brown nuggets at the bottom of the frames, some more coffee brown because of the busy travel stains. Finally, I added a super to give them more room.

I stood back and admired my work. The bees were calm, the queen had “swarmed” and they were busy working again, until once more they started their frantic flying. I made a quick call to one of my mentors, PN Williams. We discussed the level of pheromones in the hive and how this could continue to trigger them for the next couple of days. Again, they settled back down.

The next day was as beautiful as the day before with a blue sky, white puffy clouds and a cool breeze. The bees were calm with only regular movement around the entrance. The work force was quickly bringing in pollen and nectar, making the transfers as needed, working diligently, steadily. Just another day in the beehive! 🐝

🐝 Plants for Bees: Blueberries 🐝

by **Jimmy Gatt**, president, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*) are native to the state of Georgia and are entirely dependent on insect pollinators to set fruit. These plants grow wild throughout much of Georgia. I was first introduced to blueberries on my grandparents' hobby farm in Thomasville, Georgia. They grew probably about 50 blueberry plants. When I started my backyard garden in 2016, I planted two blueberry shrubs. My grandfather told me, "You ain't gonna get no blueberries," because apparently backyard birds like them as much as we do. For me, this isn't so bad: I am happy to share some of the harvest of my fruit trees and shrubs with wildlife, just as I am happy to share some of the nectar of my flowering trees and shrubs with native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, and other nectivorous animals. Blueberries are fantastic because they provide both nectar and fruit for us, and for our ecology.

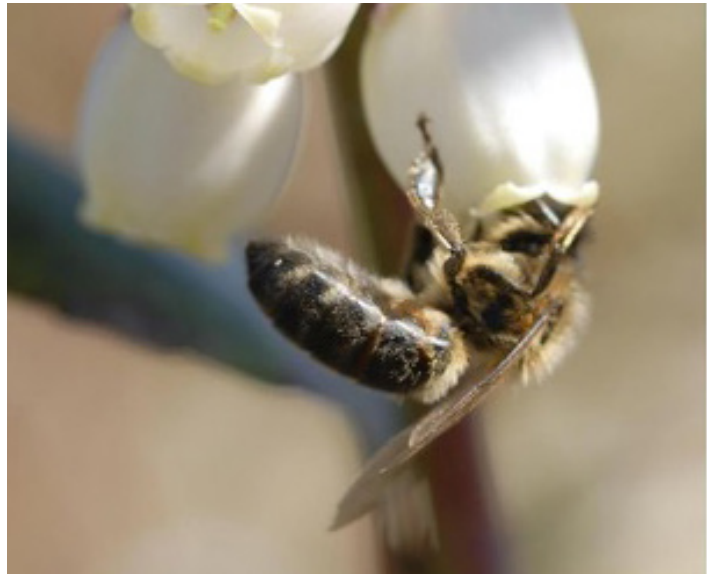
My own 1/3 acre yard is a constant work in progress. When I am not hand-pulling virginia creeper, plantain, Carolina geranium, and Japanese stiltgrass, I am working to add more nectariferous plants to my landscape. This spring's big project was to remove 15 worthless azalea bushes – on which I have NEVER seen bees – and replace them with blueberries.

Blueberries are not self-fertile, so you will need to plant more than one cultivar of blueberry bushes if you want them to set fruit. I purchased 8 specimens of one cultivar, and 7 of another, and interspersing them where the azaleas used to stand. These "high bush" type blueberries will grow to be 6 to 8 feet tall. If you want something smaller, then plant the two foot tall "low bush" blueberry cultivars. Blueberries are deciduous, and will show some interesting fall colors.

I am aware that blueberries thrive in more acidic soil, and the farmer who sold me the plants encouraged me to "mulch them with pine bark mulch, and NEVER use lime." I take all folk wisdom (both in gardening and in beekeeping) with a grain of salt, knowing that many of these methods work for only certain people in certain situations, but I am happy to mulch these plants with pine bark mulch ... wherever I may find it. I will probably have my soil pH test sometime later to see if these plants are in the optimal range. Because they want a specific acidic soil, I will keep them in a spot in my yard that is expected to be only blueberries.

The best pollinator for blueberries is, in fact, the southeastern blueberry bee (*Habropoda laboriosa*), which looks much like a small bumble bee. This native bee is in trouble, like most of our native bees, so planting blueberries helps to support the numbers of this beleaguered bee species. These bees are capable of so-called "buzz pollination" (which our honey bees cannot do) and thus are able to pollinate several species of blueberries that require buzz pollination. This bee, like most of our native bees, is a solitary, ground-dwelling bee, so apart from planting blueberries, you can help this bee by preparing an area of your yard that contains sandy soil covered with some leaf litter. Hopefully, you will see bees emerging from the little tunnels they make to lay their eggs.

The options for using blueberries are endless, and I am looking forward to incorporating blueberries into tarts, or making a blueberry refrigerator jam, or making a blueberry mead from my own honey. This true North American native plant deserves a place in your native fruit garden, and it deserves to acidify your soil for the blueberry bee. 🍷



Top: Honey bee forager working blueberries (image courtesy of UFL); Middle left: A pile of ripped up azaleas being replaced by blueberry bushes. Middle right: The author's brand new blueberry bushes, pre-installed with blueberries! Bottom: *Habropoda laboriosa*, the southeastern blueberry bee (image courtesy of UGA)

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Peter Helfrich

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Volunteering is a way of life for Peter Helfrich, our Volunteer of the Month. If he isn't volunteering as one of the newsletter editors for GBA, he is helping to run a junior beekeeping program for Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. If he isn't at a MABA board meeting (he is vice-president), he is working for "Beecatur," Decatur's Bee City USA program, which he chairs.

Peter, a journeyman beekeeper, has been keeping bees for ten years. When he and his wife, Angie, bought their first house in Decatur, they lived near the Wylde Center. They took gardening classes there and discovered the Wylde center not only had bee hives but also offered a beekeeping class. Peter took the class and learned as much as he could about beekeeping.

Peter is really the family beekeeper. Angie, his wife, is, as Peter says, "indispensable for honey harvesting." She also likes to render wax and to make beeswax candles. Since Peter has lots of wax cappings, Angie has more than

enough supplies for her wax projects. Their son, Nate, would sometimes come out to the hives with Peter when he was little, but Nate soon discovered that getting suited up to keep the bees is quite hot and not really his cup of tea.

Nate's bee suit is still around, though, and Peter takes it to festivals to allow kids to dress up like a beekeeper and have their photo taken.

As vice-president of his local club, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers, Peter also volunteers for other MABA responsibilities. He is heavily involved with the club's junior beekeeping program. His eyes light up when he talks about the fun of working with the kids. "MABA's course is really ambitious," he says. "It's a day-long course. The kids do some frame building, a craft activity and of course, the highlight of the day is to open a hive, look at a frame of bees, and even harvest honey." His other role for MABA is to make sure information about MABA gets published in the GBA newsletter.

(continued on next page)



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(continued from previous page)

In his professional life, Peter is a contract and freelance graphic designer. He works a lot for an advertising agency in Nashville. He has worked remotely for seventeen years, so the “new” at-home work mode that arrived with COVID was old hat to him. Peter has worked in publishing for a wide variety of magazines on a wide range of topics. He helped publish a monthly magazine about the arts in Philadelphia; he has produced technical magazines relating to the auto industry and heavy-duty trucking. Switching gears completely, he then took a job in Atlanta working on magazines in the medical distribution sales field.

His college degree was in English and when he graduated, the publishing industry was just moving into online desktop computer-based publishing. He worked with someone who taught him software and he’s had lots of on-the-job training.

Peter’s skills in graphics have been a huge gift to GBA. He says that the newsletter every month is “a puzzle. Every month is a little different.” He moves things around, resizes articles, changes fonts and searches for the right art, until finally “everything falls into place.” As a result, the GBA newsletter, *Spilling the Honey*, is one of the best – if not the best – bee newsletter in the country. He says “I like putting it together. Sometimes Kathy will send over a story that came in with no photos and I have the fun of reading the story and finding the right art to go with it.”

One of the things Peter likes most about working on the newsletter is that he reads every single word of it. Before he was one of the editors, he might have read a part of the newsletter and put it down with the intention to read it later. Now he doesn’t miss a word.

When asked about what he likes about volunteering, Peter said, “I like volunteer projects that involve educating others.” He really likes working with the public and introducing them to bees. He loves dismantling the misconceptions about bees. He says, “The more we work with the public to educate them, the better.” He has also found that he learns more about bees the more active he is with the bee clubs and organizations.

Peter is very active with Bee City, USA in Decatur. He gives talks on native bees and honey bees, runs the Beecatur website and social media, and generally serves as the public face for “Beecatur.” He spends many volunteer hours on this organization: making sure that Decatur fulfills its Bee City commitments; organizing a National Pollinator Week observance; and working with the city regarding pesticide use.

For Peter the hardest part about volunteering is turning down volunteer opportunities. “I have a tendency to overcommit,” he says. “I want to make a contribution and it’s hard to say no.” He and Angie both volunteer a lot. Sometimes Angie helps with the Beecatur projects and

sometimes he helps her with her own work at historic Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta.

In typical fashion, always educating, Peter says he enjoys harvest time in the bee yard because he has the opportunity to talk to the people who purchase his honey. He shares with them about the bees’ nectar collection process. One of the hardest lessons for him has been to understand that beekeeping is both an art and a science. This concept challenges the part of him that is somewhat perfectionistic. Being a beekeeper has helped him learn to let things go.

Peter’s level of enthusiasm for bees, beekeeping, and pollinators fuels his volunteer efforts. Our GBA newsletter is all the more beautiful because of his approach and attitude. GBA is so lucky to have Peter Helfrich as one of our two newsletter editors. *Thank you, Peter, for being such a committed volunteer!* 🍯



Top: Peter demonstrates uncapping a frame of honey for a group of youngsters during one of MABA’s Junior Beekeeper programs; Bottom: Tabling at community events as part of City of Decatur’s Bee City USA committee (“Beecatur”), which he chairs, is a regular part of Peter’s volunteer activities centered on bees.



Why Do We Filter Honey The Way We Do?

Non-commercial beekeepers routinely use a nested set of sieves to filter honey. A common set consists of a stainless steel “coarse” filter, a stainless steel “medium” filter, and a nylon fine filter, with the latter frequently a 200-micron mesh or maybe a 100-micron for the honey competitions (Figure 1). These sit together in the top of a 5-gallon bucket. Honey pours into the coarse filter from above, through the medium, through the fine (often backing up here) and then drips down into a pail.

Anyone that has filtered a few hundred pounds of honey has experienced the processing backup that occurs when the extractor produces more honey than the filters can handle – or the filters become blocked by particles, usually wax. A simple solution to the workflow restriction is to not have the honey flow directly into the filter. Instead, flow the honey across the filter.

In the pharmaceutical industry this is called tangential flow filtration and it utilizes expensive pumps that move liquid across large membranes. For beekeepers, we have a cheaper solution:



*By Cory Momany,
Oglethorpe County
Bee Club*

a hop spider (Figure 2). These sieves are used to infuse hops into wort during beer making and are readily available from vendors that sell beer and wine-making equipment (like Midwest Supply), but Amazon has cheap ones.

I recommend a 6”x14” stainless steel 300-micron version. Put it in the bottom of your 5-gallon bucket (Figure 3) with the extractor output flowing into the top center of the spider (a bungee cord helps to stabilize it). The wax will float as the bucket fills with honey, and the liquid will filter effortlessly through it. For additional filtering (slower), you can wrap a 200-micron nylon filter bag around it.

When the bucket is full, pull the Spider out and the honey will filter quickly through it- just be a little patient as it does hold a lot of honey. You can reuse the same Spider, wax and all, on another bucket, and another, and another. When full, place the spider on a standard filter set to drain. One spider goes a remarkably long way. But you can line up a few to alternate since they are less than \$30. 🍯



Top: A standard honey filter set consisting of a coarse, medium, and fine filter (right to left). The fine sits within 3- and 5-gallon buckets, while the coarse and medium are positioned across the top of the bucket. Far Left: A side view of a Hop Spider. Left: Figure 3. A Hop Spider sitting in a 5-gallon bucket. Note that it sticks out a bit above the bucket, but easily fits under an extractor port. The spider can use a bit of help with a bungee cord to keep it positioned under the extractor.

Plants Honey Bees Use

by *Shannon Trimboli*

Book review by *David Hinton*

One of my favorite beekeeping books is *A Book of Bees* by Sue Hubbell. It's part memoir and part practical guide and I recommend it. One of the bits of information I remember most from Hubbell's book is her statement that "If you're going to be a good beekeeper, you also have to be a botanist." Hubbell knew all the plants and trees within her bees' foraging area that they might feed on, as well as their blooming seasons.

Hubbell's statement made such an impression on me that at the next Nashville Area Beekeepers Association meeting, I checked out the best book I could find on the subject of plants for bees from the NABA lending library, *Plants Honey Bees Use...in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys* by Shannon Trimboli, a beekeeper and wildlife biologist. The book contains full color descriptions of over 175 different plants.

As the book's foreword notes: "This manual is not for coffee tables, but rather for the propolis-encrusted hands of a beekeeper wanting to look up a flower in August or the dirt-encrusted hands of a gardener who is interested in landscaping with plants that will benefit the local honey bees. It is organized seasonally, beginning with the year's first blooming plants and ending with the late fall."

Within each season, the plants are grouped into trees and shrubs, vines, forbes (I had to look this one up and I'm still not sure what they are), and grasses. Finally, each plant is

classified as to whether it is a native, exotic, or crop species.

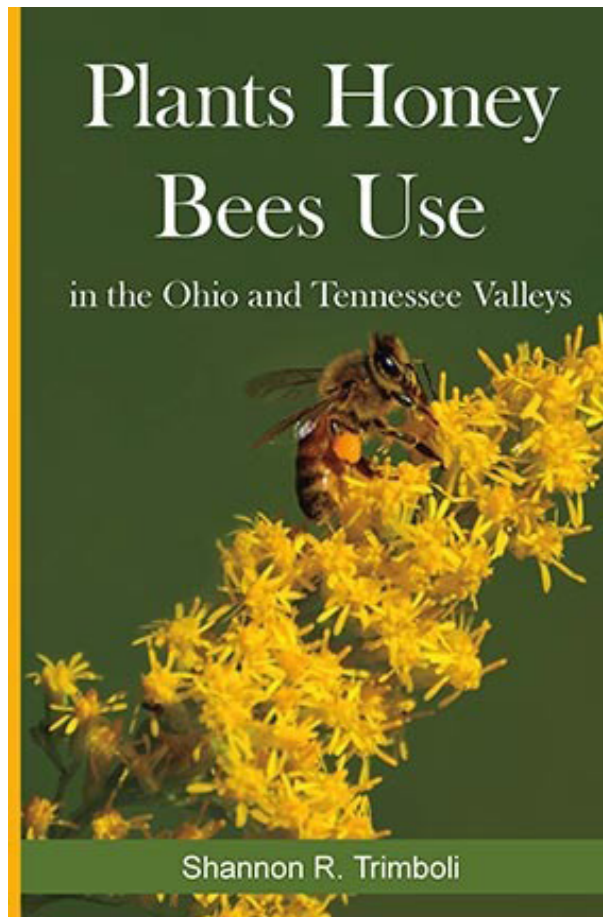
I learned a lot from the book's chapter on honey bee foraging behavior. How could I have gone for so long in beekeeping without knowing the following?

"Beekeepers tend to group plants into two categories—major honey plants and minor honey plants. Major honey plants are common enough and produce enough nectar for the bees to store surplus honey. . . . Only a small number of plants are major honey plants for any given area. Minor honey plants refer to plants that honey bees use, but which don't usually

result in surplus honey. . . . The minor honey plants can have a greater impact on the overall health of the hive than the major honey plants. One way to think about it is that the major honey plants are our Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holiday feasts, while the minor honey plants are all the meals in between. We would be hard-pressed to survive without all those in-between meals, no matter how large the feasts or how many leftovers we stored from those feasts."

If you want to seriously increase your level of beekeeping expertise, I strongly recommend *Plants Honey Bees Use...in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys*.

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.



PASS THE SALT, PLEASE!

by *Kathy Bourn*

In my summer kitchen, or garden kitchen if you like, I store an assortment of cooking items. Since this building is not heated or cooled, some of the items collect moisture. I had an old container of Morton salt do just that and it became as hard as a rock. I hate throwing anything away, so I decided to set it out near my bees' watering hole.

I didn't know if they wanted it or needed it, but I gave it to them anyway. Soon I started seeing the girls stop by and take a taste. Since, I've seen bees at the ashes of my burn pile and at the compost piles, I assume they're intuitive enough to find and use what they need. Anyone with a saltwater pool knows how honey bees love to come and take a drink.

Bees use a combination of their mouths, antenna and the surface of their feet to taste. "Unsurprisingly, given bees' need for nectar, the insects' feet are incredibly sensitive to sugar. But they're even more attuned to salt," said researcher Martin Giurfa, director of the Research Center on Animal Cognition at the University of Toulouse in France

Bees need salt for themselves and for developing larva. Each bee would spend quite a bit of time at my little salt lick, so I hope it is helpful to them. 🐝



ASK AUNT BEE!

How To Show Your Gloves Some Love

Question:

It's a joy to find a pair of leather beekeeping gloves that fit just right. After doing their job for awhile, they end up collecting propolis, stingers, pheromones, and general dirt. The gloves usually end up getting wet and becoming stiff. What is the best way to clean them and increase their softness?

Answer:

1. Wash the gloves in warm water and dishwashing liquid (Dawn works well). Put the gloves on, add the soap and scrub your hands together like you're washing your hands.
2. For tougher spots, soak the gloves in chlorine water (being careful with the concentrated chlorine) or rub isopropyl alcohol on them. This will break up the propolis and wax and will disinfect the leather. You can leave them soaking overnight. Rinse them thoroughly in clean water.
3. Hang them in the sun and let them dry naturally. This can take a day or so.

While they're still damp, put them on and work the fingers.

4. Keep working them loose and apply a leather conditioner or any cooking oil you may have. With the gloves on, work the oil into them as if you're washing your hands. They won't look brand new but they'll be usable again. 🐝







It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.

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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

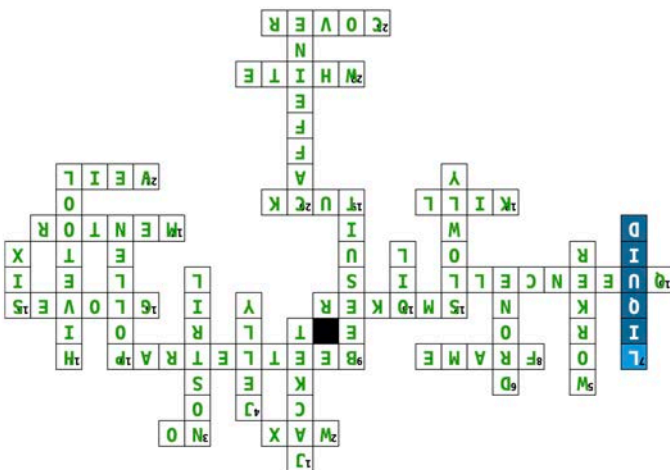
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

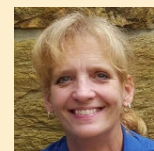
Tell us your speaker's name and topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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 Beekeepers Association



On April 16th, Altamaha Beekeepers Association and the Ohoopee Regional Library partnered to host a presentation about honey bees to children in Lyons, GA.

Maggie Douglas, ABA Secretary, answered questions and spoke to children and parents about honey bees, products of the hive, safety and more. The children enjoyed finding the queen bee in an observation hive that ABA purchased with GBA's assistance through the *Save The Honey Bee* License Plate grant program. ABA President **Susan Barnes** appeared in a bee costume, assisted with questions, and helped kids try on a beekeeping suit!



The children already had varying amounts of correct information about honey bees, but had many questions. Several kids were excited to try on the bee suit, and there were one or two that were scared or cautious of the bees. The observation hive and training frames that the ABA provided are wonderful tools which allow kids to observe bees in a safe environment. Additional props included dandelion seeds, wild honeycomb from a swarm, a bee jacket and gloves.

The library offered a wide selection of pollination garden and bee-related books for all ages to borrow. The kids were able to take home free honey bee activity pages, while adults were able to pick up a wildflower magazine, GBA pamphlets and business cards for contact. ABA fielded questions of interest for new and potential beekeepers at the event. The Altamaha Beekeepers Association and the library look forward to providing more honey bee activities in the future. 🐝

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, April 19 at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The mentoring session was attended by several newbies as well as seasoned beekeepers. The program was provided by **Bobby Chaisson**, a GBA Director. Bobby created a video on how to do a hive inspection and he allowed us to play it for our attendees. The activity for the monthly meeting was provided by **Anita Curry** who explained how to install a caged queen into a queenless colony. She also gave some tips on how to harvest queen cells. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org. 🐝

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Our April meeting featured **Jennifer Berry** from the UGA Bee Lab sharing her experience with and love of pollinator plants. We all learned about new species of beautiful flowers that give back to our honey bees and native pollinators. There were more than 50 members and guests in attendance. We're really enjoying our new meeting facility. It's modern, large and convenient. **Harold Lanier** and **Bruce Breedlove** both had interesting gizmos to demonstrate and there were plenty of door prizes, too! 🐝



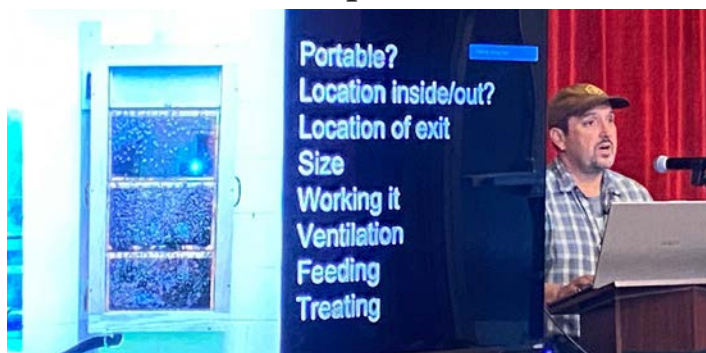
Jennifer Berry

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers



At the April meeting, the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers saw a demonstration of the artwork that can be created from beeswax. **Holli Kircher**, a LHBA member, gave her tips and techniques for making candles, luminaries, lip balm, and anything else you can think to make with beeswax. Holli also takes incredible pictures of her bees and won the Best in Show award at the GBA Spring Artisan Show. 🐝

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



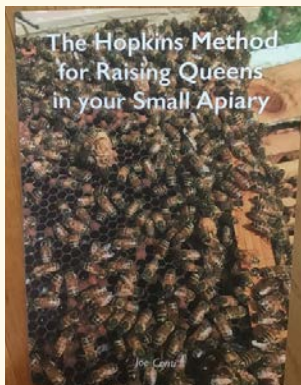
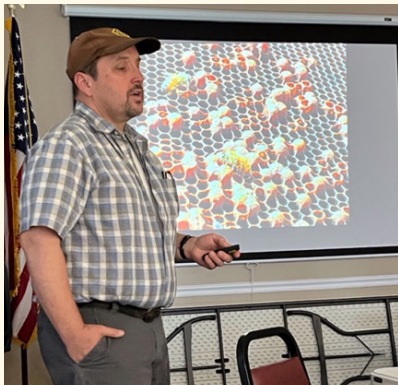
Master Beekeeper **Dan Long** was the speaker at Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's April meeting. Dan spoke on the subject of observation hives. His informative, engaging, often humorous presentation was enjoyed by MABA members both in person and online via Zoom. 🐝

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

Oglethorpe County Beekeepers



On Monday, April 18th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club held its monthly meeting featuring a co-presentation on queen rearing. Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association President **Dan Long**'s topic was "Principles of Queen Rearing," and Oglethorpe County Bee Club President **Joe Conti**'s topic was "Hopkins Method For Raising Queens In Your Small Apiary." 🐝

Troup County Association of Beekeepers

The Troup County Association of Beekeepers met on March 21. After the initial greeting of all the new members, **Jim Bradfield** spoke about "Swarms:

Catching, Gathering and Trapping." His presentation demonstrated the process on the how, what, where and why to have a swarm box in your apiary. Jim brought his handmade swarm box as a visual to educate us with the perfect placement and how to

secure the box to a tree for easy removal. **Frank Smith** taught the mentor program topic of beeswax and its many uses. TCAB meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM with the mentor program beginning at 6:30 PM. Please follow us on Facebook for future information on meetings, classes and learning. 🐝



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	gabeesecretary@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
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	in person	May 10	Photography in the Apiary and how to present that work at an artisan show – Georgia Zumwalt	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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				clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm		June 6	Bee Photography – Georgia Zumwalt	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				etowahrivereekeepers@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	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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	in person	May 5	Photography in the Apiary and how to present that work at an artisan show – Georgia Zumwalt	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid (in-person/Zoom)	May 17	Honey – Michael Young	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm	in person	May 16	Long Langstroth Hives – Cory Momany	ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashp@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Kiwanis Room, Georgia Power Building 752 Main St., Forest Park, GA 30297	3rd Monday, 7pm	hybrid (in-person/Zoom)	May 16	Bee-yond Honey Bees: Meet Your Native Bees – Peter Helfrich	tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm				info@tricountybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Association of 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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 pm (mentoring, 6:30 pm)				bjpete7731@att.net	Douglas

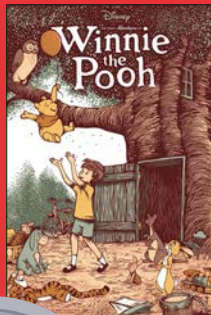
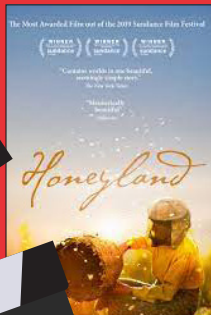
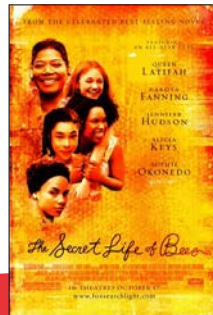
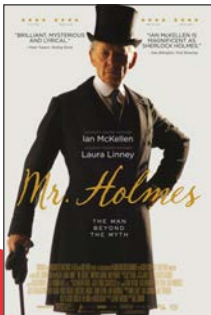
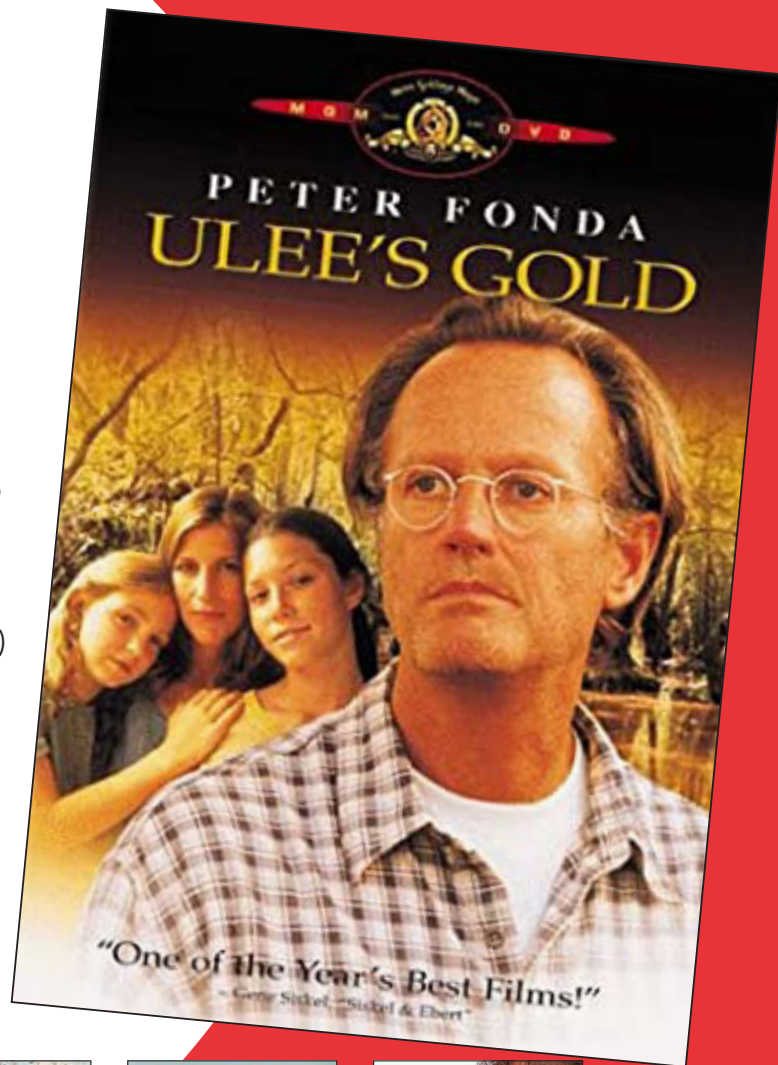
**Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.*

Bee Movies

By Virginia Webb

I love the movies... especially ones that in some way include bees or beekeeping. Below are my top 10 favorite bee/beekeeping movies. Some may be familiar to you; others you may not have heard of before. Many of these films refer to our apiculture industry, others include it as a positive profession. A few have only a passing reference to bees that may be missed – so watch closely!

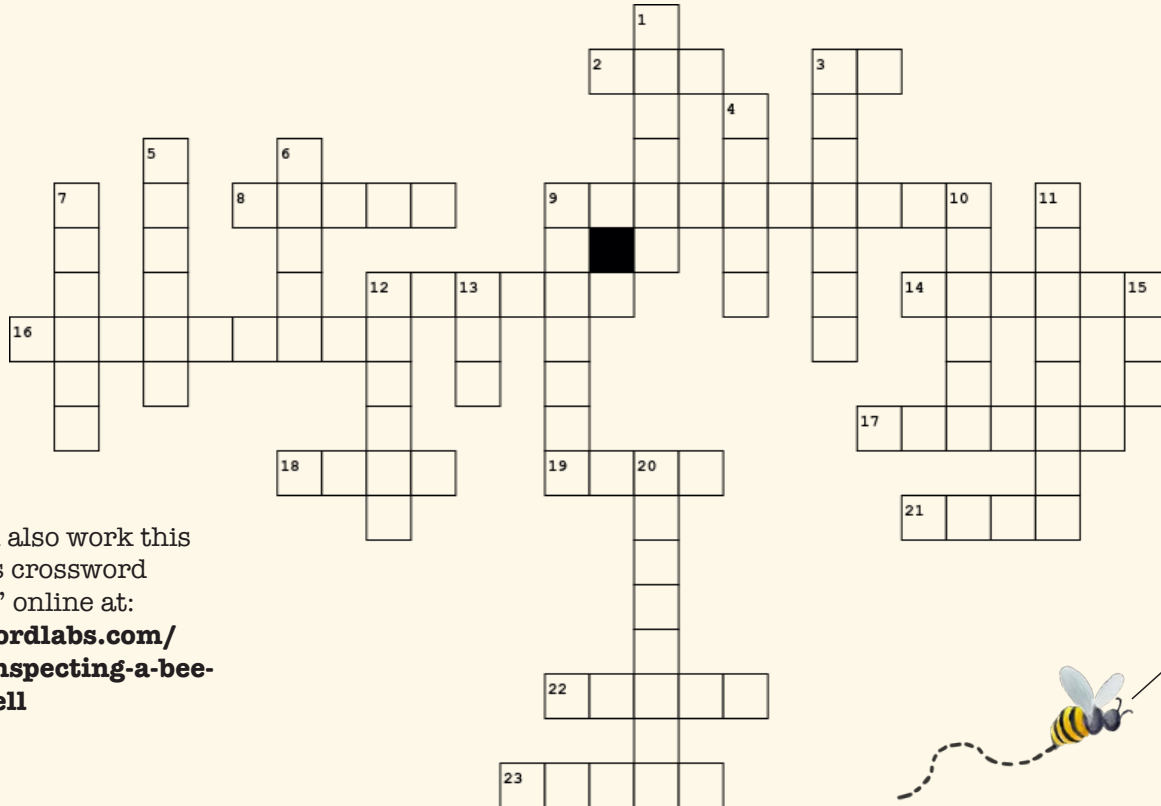
10. The Wizard of Oz (1939)
9. The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (1977)
8. Bee Movie (2007)
7. Honeyland (2019)
6. Honey I Shrunk the Kids (1989)
5. Vanishing of the Bees (2009)
4. The Pollinators (2019)
3. The Secret Life of Bees (2008)
2. Mr. Holmes (2015)
1. Ulee's Gold (1997)



Crossword **B**uzzle



Inspecting a Bee Hive Well



You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at: crosswordlabs.com/view/inspecting-a-bee-hive-well

Stumped?
The answer key is on page 13.



ACROSS:

2. The main ingredient in the composition of the capping over brood
3. Do you have to see the queen to know she is alive?
8. The wooden wax holder that you lift individually out of the hive in an inspection.
9. If you see tiny black beetles in the hive, put one of these between the frames
12. Every beekeeper should have this by his/her side in an inspection. It makes the bees calmer
14. Hard to find a pair that fit but wearing them is a protection
16. Looks like a five guys peanut before you shell it
17. A person from whom to learn about hives and inspections
18. What you should do to a bee with two fingers if you feel a bee walking up inside your pants leg too high to shake it out
19. If you can you do this with pants and your socks, you may have some sting prevention
21. The minimum protective gear one must wear
22. The color of wax cappings over honey
23. If you turn this upside down and set hive boxes on it, you up your chances of not losing your queen, should she fall off of a frame

DOWN:

1. One half of a bee suit
3. The most painful place ever to get a sting
4. This royal stuff is at the bottom of the cells with eggs in them
5. The kind of bee brood developing under capping that is flat and beige to dark brown in color
6. The kind of brood capping shaped like a bullet
7. The state of nectar in the hive before it is capped
9. When you have this on, you look like a space person
10. What is packed on the back legs of some bees flying into a queenright hive
11. This instrument is used to break propolis seals between the frames or between the hive boxes
12. How one must move to avoid disturbing the bees
13. What you put in traps to kill the insects that slime the honey
15. When at least this many frames are filled in an eight frame hive, it is time to add a new box
20. Many people include this in their morning meal but it makes the bees mad to smell it on your breath



Spilling *The* Honey

JUNE 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy summer, beekeepers!

The Georgia Beekeepers Association continues to enjoy the benefits of our *Save The Honey Bee* license plate and distribute grants for a wide variety of projects to help educate beekeepers and the general public about honey bees. If you don't already have one, please get a plate for your vehicle. *And ask a friend or neighbor to get one too!*

We are in the process of readying all the details for our Fall 2022 conference. The keynote speakers – including **Dr. Mohammed Alburaki**, **Melanie Kirby**, **Marina Marchese**, **Dr. Sam Ramsey** and **Dr. Lewis Barlett** – are an impassioned group, each of whom will make you proud of our statewide organization. We will send more information about each of these speakers as we get closer to the conference. *Save these dates:*

- **September 22** - Thursday Board Meeting & Vendor Set up
- **September 23** - Friday Conference, Elections, & Enter Honey Show
- **September 24** - Saturday Conference, Honey Show & Election Winner Announced

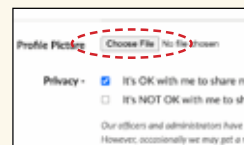
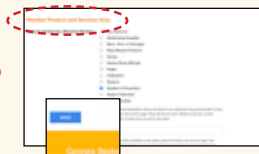
Please mark your calendar and be ready to register for the conference in July.

At the fall conference, our elections will be held using the Wild Apricot system. Signing into your Wild Apricot account is something that you'll need to be comfortable doing. Please familiarize yourself with it and use your email and passwords. GBA is requesting that you to review your Wild Apricot profile and update it as necessary. You can go into your account and add a photo, mark if you sell honey, or give talks, and anything else to share with our members.



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

We need you to review and update your GBA profile



1. Sign into your Wild Apricot account and update your profile. To start, click login on the first page. Then put in your user name and password and follow the directions.
2. Review your Wild Apricot profile and make sure your information is correct. To see your profile, click on the orange person profile on the right side of the page.
3. One thing you can edit in your profile is the part called "Products and Services." You can select the items you offer to sell or the talks you like to give in this section.
4. If you'd like, you can add a biography and a photo of yourself so we can all get to know each other better.

Best wishes for a bountiful honey harvest! 🍯

- Gina



TAG ALONG

See what the License Plate Proceeds Committee has been doing for you!

by **Sophia Price**

Did we set another record in March? *You betcha!* There were 15 applications on that month's agenda. One application was tabled for additional information and one application was rescinded and it was re-written.

The Prison Program was awarded funds to start a program at a new facility, The Metro Transition Center. The committee applauds the prison program, which has an inmate who has transferred to this facility and wants to be a part of this program as well.

Other grants awarded went to support four educational events, an award went to the UGA Vet School for a research update, UGA research, and one for a microphone and speaker system for bee club meetings. There was an award for new technical equipment, and one for bees and an observation hive. The most applications received were for bee schools and speakers, and the committee bestowed funds for two of those requests.

Three clubs not previously applying this year submitted requests for funding their projects. Bee education is everyone's top priority. There was a wide variety of applications in March, and we strive to utilize our funds each month in the best way possible.

April was a very creative month, but with the least number of applications this year. The six applications were considered and awarded. Three were to clubs applying for the first time in 2022. Several received grants for educational outreach in the form of books, bee equipment and a straw skep. Two clubs were awarded support to participate in the BIP Sentinel Program.

In each letter notifying the applicant of an award, there is a request to send pictures of how the money is used and the email address to send it. Please send pictures of your club using your grant funds for documentation and illustration while the event or purchase is current. The committee has also received four thank you letters for grants given. These were nice, and we could tell the award was genuinely appreciated. 🐝

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.

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.

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members! This includes things like paying for guest speaker fees, covering start-up costs for beekeeper training programs, setting up a club apiary, purchasing equipment for your club meetings, or staging any sort of program or project that will help educate your members to be better beekeepers.

To apply, [click here](#) and follow all of the instructions. 🐝



YOUR LPP COMMITTEE

Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

2022 GBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

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.

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:

- **Kathleen Bourn**, Chair - Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association
- **Douglas Carter** - Twin Rivers Bee Club
- **Gail Dean** - Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association
- **Emily Heath** - Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association
- **Bruce Morgan** - Lake Country Beekeepers
- **Stanley Okon** - SOWEGA Beekeepers
- **Sophia Price** - Chattooga County Beekeepers

The committee will first ensure that all nominations are eligible. Then, after the June 30th deadline, 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. 🐝

**Deadline
June 30!**



Beekeeper of the Year Recipients

2021	Kathleen Bourn
2020	Linda Tillman
2019	Bobby Chaisson
2018	Julia Mahood
2017	Brutz English
2016	Bill Owens
2015	Roseanne Dorn
2014	Bear Kelley
2013	Bruce Morgan
2012	Cindy Hodges
2011	Fred Rossman
2010	Robert Brewer
2009	Keith Fielder
2008	Jim Harris
2007	Martha Kiefer
2006	Cindy Bee
2005	Jennifer Berry
2004	Durant Warwick
2003	Bob Binnie
2002	Carl Webb
2001	JM Sikes
2000	Evelyn Williams
1997	BJ Weeks
1996	PN Williams
1995	Dr. Keith Delaplane
1993	Virginia Webb
1992	Jessie McCurdy
1984	Reg Wilbanks



JOIN US FOR Beeing Social, Again

August 1-5, 2022
ITHACA, NY

Our *Beeing Social, Again 2022* Conference will be held at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY on August 1-5, 2022. Ithaca College is a short drive from Ithaca International Airport and about an hour drive from Syracuse. Ithaca is readily accessible by car from the nearby major interstates, I-81 and I-90.



The Eastern Apicultural Society is extending an invitation to the GBA membership to attend the 2022 EAS Conference “Being Social Again” that will be held at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. There will be a short course from Monday, August 1st to Wednesday, August 3rd and the Main Conference from Wednesday, August 3rd to Friday, August 5th. The short course features pathways for all levels of expertise as well as a queen rearing day-long workshop and a microscopy session. Morning plenary sessions, afternoon breakout pathways, dinners, social events, auctions, a children’s program, travel to a commercial beekeeper and the Cornell University Botanic Gardens and Mann Library Bee Collection are all offered during this jam-packed week of bee information, socializing and being connected!

Details may be found on the **EAS website**. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretary, Doris Morgan at secretary@easternapiculture.org. Registrations for attendees (both individual registration and volunteer registration) are now open and will be taken through June 30th. A separate registration is available for vendors. Volunteering details are outlined in the Journal and on the **EAS 2022 Conference site**.

Current members of the EAS may also go to the **EAS Journal link on the EAS website** to find information on the program schedule, volunteer opportunities, accommodations, conference features and a highlight of some of the local Ithaca and Finger Lakes area attractions. 🍯

HAIL TO THE QUEEN:

Revived Beekeeping Program At Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm Highlights Pollinators

by Amy Carter

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the Georgia Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin.)

ARCHERY, GA

Some advice, if we may: The sting of a Presidential honey bee is just as potent as that of her civilian cousins, so if you plan to visit the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm to see what early life was like for the 76th Governor of Georgia – and the 39th President of the United States – give the bee boxes wide berth. But don't bypass them altogether.

Take a few moments to marvel (from afar) at their organization, their industry, their sheer numbers. Anywhere from 40,000 to 60,000 honey bees make up one hive, and there are now eight boxes containing single or double colonies beneath the canopy of pecan trees Carter helped plant as a child growing up on his family's homestead outside Plains.

Carter's father, Earl, moved his family to the farm in 1928. They grew cotton, peanuts, sugar cane and corn to sell, and kept more than 20 beehives that produced honey for their own table and for sale in the farm store that served workers

on the farm and people in the surrounding community, according to the National Park Service.

The bees are part of an ongoing effort to show visitors the closest possible approximation of rural life during Carter's childhood – after indoor plumbing but before electricity. Former President Carter left the farm after graduating from Plains High School in 1941, and his father sold the place in 1949. The National Park Service purchased 17 acres of the original 360-acre farm in 1994 – including the family's farmhouse and farm store – and added it to a complex of historic sites in Sumter and Webster counties associated with Carter's early life and political career.

Brett Morgan, a park ranger with the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park, manages the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm, where President Carter was raised. Not long after taking the post, he discovered two bee boxes that had been overtaken by hive beetles. Morgan wanted to save the colonies, so he called on Dale Richter, a master beekeeper in Southwest Georgia, for assistance reestablishing honey bees on the property.

(continued on next page)



The beekeeping team at Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm



Beekeeping At Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm (cont.)

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“I said, ‘Hey, we got bees and I don’t know what to do but I do know that the Carter Family would have had bees and used honey so what do we do?’” Morgan said.

Since then, Morgan has learned to deal with everything from hive beetles to honey bee swarms, often in phone consultations with Richter, a beekeeper for some 60 years who studied at his grandfather’s knee. That’s a lot of bee cred, but even he’ll admit there’s more to learn. Richter explained that bees swarm for many reasons, such as overcrowding or the presence of a second queen.

Whatever the reason for departure, scout bees fly ahead of the swarm to find a new home for the breakaway colony, Richter said. It could be a nearby building, a hollow tree trunk next to the established hive, or some other place five miles away.

“They’re called scout bees, technically, but I call them realtors, because they go out looking for a home, and whichever one comes back and says, ‘Hey, I got the spot,’ the swarm will take off and they’re gone. It’s like a tornado,” Richter said.

Part of Richter’s business is capturing swarms, and one reason that’s possible with minimal drama is because the bees gorge themselves on honey prior to departure. They also have nothing to protect, making them very docile. That doesn’t make them one bit more malleable to the will of man, though.

In early spring of this year, a hive in the Carter pecan orchard cleaved in two and the breakaway bees took up residence on a fence post. Morgan said there are many ways to capture a swarm – some right, some wrong. When bees swarm a tree limb, the beekeeper can cut the limb and carry the limb and bees together in a five-gallon bucket to a new bee box.

To capture swarms in places other than the Carter farm, Richter has used an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (commonly known as a drone, but not to be confused with drone bees, a small number of males tolerated by a hive of females for their ability to service the queen for purposes of procreation). By attaching pheromones to the drone, Richter lures bee swarms out of trees or other high perches. They literally follow the drone to the ground.

Morgan had to gently brush the fencepost swarm into a Tupperware container with holes punched in the lid and transport them to their own box, separate from the original hive.

“I got them off the fencepost the first time and I got a call literally an hour later: ‘They’re back,’” Morgan said.

Thinking he failed to capture the queen, Morgan went back and hunted for her – the queen likes dark spaces, and the colony protects her fiercely.

“The hardest thing about capturing a swarm is the fact that it is hard to tell if you got the queen,” Morgan said. “It’s a trial-and-error process. You relocate them to a new box and once they settle, you inspect and locate the queen. If there is no queen or if you are unsuccessful with locating her, the bees will swarm again.”

After a couple more tries at relocating the colony, the theory developed that although the box Morgan put them in had not housed bees in two years, the lingering pheromones of a previous queen signaled to the new residents that they were trespassing in another’s home.

Morgan is working with Richter to build the Carter farm honey bee colony back to the level the Carter family maintained. Morgan is also working on a curriculum for school children to educate them about honey bees. 🐝

To learn more about the **Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm and the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park**, visit www.nps.gov/jica

To learn more about honey bees and beekeeping, visit the **University of Georgia Extension Service online**.



Dale Richter, a master beekeeper in Southwest Georgia, operates a bee removal service called The Buzz Fuzz.



Brett Morgan, a park ranger with the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park, manages the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm, where President Carter was raised.

Good Beekeeping Friends (Are Good to Have!)

by *Kathy Bourn*

As the saying goes: A friend will help you move... *a good friend will help you move a body!*

In the beekeeping world, a friend will help you move a hive... *a good friend will help you move a hot hive on a hot day.*

The people who choose to be friends with a beekeeper are special. It doesn't matter whether they themselves are beekeepers or not. Like when **Holly Bayendor's** husband **Jeff McConnell** makes the effort to mow around the clover in their backyard just to help her bees.

When a beekeeper asks to borrow some eggs, they're not talking about the ones from a chicken. A good friend will dive into their own hives to share a frame of eggs and larvae with a beek who is desperate to help a colony make a new queen.

So what do you do when you have a swarm that is just out of reach of your catching pole? You call a good friend who has a longer pole of course. That's why I called **Kevin McCraney**, a beekeeping friend who came over and helped me catch one of my swarms that hit the trees about 35-feet off the ground. You also have to have good beekeeping friends with good beekeeping equipment. A friend with a bucket truck is worth their weight in honey.

And when you have to move a huge coffin-like top bar hive, you can only count on beekeeping friends to come up with a plan and make it happen. When **Linda Tillman** had this problem, she had help from beekeeping friends **Bobby Chaisson, Jimmy Gatt, Steve Esau**, and me. *In this case, I'm not sure that we weren't actually helping a friend move a body!* 🐝

The people who choose to be friends with a beekeeper are special. It doesn't matter whether they themselves are beekeepers or not.



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Monica Sheppard

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Monica Sheppard makes volunteering her second career. In her real life, she is an independent graphic designer, but that is hardly all that she does. She volunteers for GBA, as you will soon see, but also for many important events in the Rome/Floyd area. She has been such a significant volunteer in that city that last year she was given the Heart of the Community Award, a designation that “honors residents of Rome for their committed service and dedication to the community,” as stated on their website.

Monica’s passion for beekeeping stems from her father, Cecil Sheppard. Cecil, who died in 2021, was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 1986. He was an active member of MABA and was secretary of GBA the year that American Beekeeping Federation held their annual meeting in Savannah, GA. GBA essentially organized that event, and Cecil was very involved.

He had about 50 hives all over north Georgia – in Tucker, Snellville, and in the mountains. Most summer weekends Monica rode with her dad to the bees. Although she wasn’t active with the bees then, she thought that “having a beehive was about being an adult.” So it’s no surprise that she began beekeeping on her own about 11 years ago.

Monica is in the process of establishing a new store in Rome that will hopefully open in a few months. The name of the store is Cecil T’s Mercantile. The counters will be made of her father’s hive boxes. He had a brand that he stamped on each hive box and that is on the wood that will be used as counters throughout the store. The store features an observation hive that was built and installed by GBA member, Dan Long.

Monica and several friends began a women’s beekeeping group called the BeeShees. They sell their honey under that label. The women are Andi Beyer (who was already keeping bees when the group began), Denise Champagne, Monica, and Monica’s daughter, Ramsey Cook. Ramsey has been less active with the BeeShees in recent years because she was in school

at Georgia Tech. But she (the third generation beekeeper) worked with Jennifer Leavey in the bee program there.

Over the 11 years, the BeeShees have worked together really well. “We take our struggles as shared struggles,” says Monica and they generally agree on their philosophy about keeping bees so mostly they are on the same page.

Monica is in her third year as the president of the Rome Floyd Beekeepers Association (RFBA). She was a founding vice-president of that club which is about five years old. There are around 75 people in her club, many of them new beekeepers. *(continued on next page)*



Inset: Monica’s passion for beekeeping stems from her father, Cecil Sheppard. Above: In addition to all her volunteer service, her beekeeping, and writing her column in the Rome News-Tribune, in coming months, Monica will be opening Cecil T’s Mercantile, a store she’s naming for her late father.

GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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The Rome club began because Monica and others wanted Rome to be a Bee City, USA affiliate. To do this, they needed a local club. Monica, who does a lot of talking to garden clubs, and others helped people in Rome begin to think, “We know bees are important and we need to save them.” Applying to be a Bee City involves a lot of boxes to be checked. Mary Hardin Thornton of Keep Rome and Floyd Beautiful helped a lot in the process. *What a wonderful accomplishment to have achieved this for Rome!*

As president of the RFBA, Monica secures speakers, runs the meetings and manages the communication on Facebook. “It’s all about engaging with people and talking about honey and bees and pollinators,” she says. She also posts about the BeeShee beekeeping projects on Facebook.

Bobby Chaisson talked her into running for a position with GBA. She really wanted to do it, given her dad’s history with GBA. She has enjoyed being more involved with GBA. She has served on the website committee during the creation of the new website and is getting to know the presidents in her director area. She really wants to help the clubs in her director group negotiate their challenges and is looking forward to learning from them as well.

Monica says that time is always hard to find when you have as many volunteer roles as she has. She says, “There is always so much to accomplish and only so much that you can actually do.” In addition to her work for her own club, Bee City, USA, and her work with GBA, Monica also is co-director with her friend Andi for the Chiaha Harvest Fair in October in Rome. She has served on the board and continues to be involved with the local film festival, Empty Bowls, and supporting Animal Rescue. She writes a weekly column for the *Rome News-Tribune* where she often writes about bees and beekeeping, and has a weekly spot on a local radio show, which gives her another opportunity to promote bees and their concerns.

Monica was somewhat anxious about coming into GBA. “It was a little daunting,” she said. She tries to approach everything as a continuous learning process and having volunteered a lot, she hoped she’d be able to jump in and figure out whatever she needed to know. “Beekeeping is an older tradition that could easily die away, kind of like canning has,” she said. “It’s important for people to feel like they can approach the hobby and learn. Nobody has to be a professional.”

GBA is so lucky to have Monica share her endless volunteer energy with us. Her father would be very proud of her contributions so far to our organization. 🐝



Top: Monica with a couple of queen bees. Middle: The BeeShees – Andi Beyer, Denise Champagne and Monica. Bottom: Monica removing a colony of bees from a storage locker.

East Georgia State College Spreads The Buzz About Honey Bees and Pollinators!

by *Paul Cerpovicz*

As a Bee Campus USA affiliate, East Georgia State College (EGSC) has been working hard to help inform the community about the importance of honey bees and other pollinators to our world.

With generous support from the **GBA's License Plate Proceeds Committee** and the Swainsboro/Emanuel County Mill Creek Foundation, EGSC's School of Liberal Arts, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and the EGSC Foundation, the campus beekeeping club has been able to purchase and distribute – free of charge – hundreds of pollinator-related books and other information to kids and adults since fall 2021.

Since October 2021, EGSC students, faculty, and staff have participated in several large outreach events in the local communities of Emanuel, Bulloch, and Toombs counties. On October 9, 2021, EGSC set up tables at the GreenFest Sustainability event in Statesboro, GA, seeing an estimated 300 people, and another 350 community members at the Farm Days event in Statesboro later that month. In April 2022, EGSC joined members of the Altamaha Beekeepers Association in Vidalia, GA for the Onion Festival and, in May, students, faculty, and staff from the college's Bee Campus USA and Tree Campus Higher Education groups teamed up for Swainsboro's annual Pine Tree Festival. About 400 people were impacted by the outreach efforts between these two events.

The goals for these events are simple – to help people of all ages understand and appreciate the importance of honey bees and pollinators to our lives, and how to protect them and their habitats. We have handed out nearly 900 books related to honey bees and pollination to the community since October 2021. For those adults who expressed an interest in keeping bees of their own, we gave them contact information for local beekeeping clubs, invited them to our campus apiary, and handed out copies of *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith Delaplane (38 in all).



We also set up an observation hive with bees and gave out over 350 biodegradable gift bags to kids. While supplies lasted, interested community members were given 1.5 oz sample jars of honey extracted from hives from the EGSC apiary (350 in all were distributed), as well as commercial honey sticks, wildflower seeds, and basil plants propagated by students from cuttings in the EGSC greenhouse.

Between these events, visits to local school classrooms and book donations to local school libraries, well over one thousand community members have been influenced in from these outreach efforts over the past eight months.

This scale of outreach would not have been possible without the wonderful support we have received from the Mill Creek Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to educational outreach in the Emanuel County area of Georgia, EGSC and the EGSC Foundation, and the GBA's License Plate Proceeds Committee. If you have any suggestions for kid and adult-friendly books or activities on honey bees and other pollinators or for pollinator habitat gardening that we can add to our community outreach efforts, please email: cerpovicz@ega.edu. If you are interested in making a donation to the EGSC Foundation in support of the college apiary and our outreach efforts, you can go to **click here** or text egsbees to 71777. 🐝



Holli's Haven

by *Kathy Bourn*

If you love being a beekeeper and love making artistic hive products, then you will love the place Holli Kircher has created. She says it's not a "honey house" because she doesn't extract honey in it. And it's not really a "she shed," because it's so much more than that. She hasn't come up with the right name for it yet, but when you see it, you know it's special.

Holli started beekeeping in 2019 with two nucs from Blue Ridge Honey Co. and got hooked quickly. She said she just wanted a couple of hives for a little bit of honey. Most of us know how that goes... Between catching swarms and giving away some bees, she's lost track of exactly how many hives she has, but thinks it's about 15. She keeps in both Langstroth and Long Lang hives at her home in Hart County with her husband and two young sons. She'll sell a nuc once in a while, but what really commands her attention is all the artistic products you can make with beeswax.

Early in her beekeeping she attended a Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association meeting where fellow members Randal and Sharion Kerlin demonstrated how to make beeswax candles. That lit a fire in Holli! She has perfected her candle making along with producing beautiful beeswax luminaries with pressed flowers and she is now experimenting with lip balms. Holli also takes stunning photographs and she won Best in Show at the 2022 GBA Spring Artisan Show. She loves taking pictures of her bees and she says, "It's why it takes me so long to inspect the hives."

"There was getting to be too much stuff in the basement," she says, so a building had to be built. Including electricity, insulation, shelving, freezers, storage, along with heating and air conditioning, it took her and her husband Michael about three months to construct it. Her construction advice: lay it out in your mind, build it bigger than what you think you need, have plenty of electrical outlets, and most important – make sure it's bee tight.

Holli has decorated her place with her award winning pictures, samples of her candles, and her father's old beekeeping veil and hive tool. She is an oncology nurse and she says that creating beeswax products is her therapy. Having her building to work in is a wonderful stress release.

Everything in the building is incredibly organized. Holli has work stations for candle making, freezers for frames, a mezzanine area for storage, and a freezer that is used to warm honey using a light bulb and temperature controller. It also houses all her beekeeping woodenware and supplies. Everything not only has a place, but it is all labeled.

Holli is also meticulous about her candle making. She has perfected wax melting and how best to prepare the wicks and when to liquify the wax with a heat gun. She notices the smallest imperfections such as lines that indicate that the candle didn't harden evenly. If a candle isn't perfect, she doesn't hesitate to melt it back down and start again. Her favorite candles are the

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Holli's Haven

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pillars. Her advice when buying pillar molds is to “spend your money on the tallest ones, because you can always use less wax to make it shorter.” She sells her creations by word of mouth and locally at the Blue Haven Honey Company. She is always on the hunt for good clean wax.

When asked what aspect of beekeeping she prefers, Holli doesn't hesitate to say, “The part I love the most is doing education.” She not only presents at bee clubs, but also at area schools, and at the annual Ag Day for the Hart County school system. She said the biggest challenge is explaining the wide world of the honey bee in a short amount of time.

Another challenge for Holli is coming up with just the right name for her special building. If you have any ideas, let her know! 🐝



If you know of a beekeeper in your area with special talents or ideas, please share their story with our **Spilling the Honey** readers. We'd love to feature them!
Email: gbanewsletters@gmail.com



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Walk Boards

by Kathy Bourn

In the construction industry, a walk board is used on scaffolding to allow workers to move horizontally. Since we know that our bees are really little construction workers, we can help them by providing them with walk boards.

When a beekeeper is forced to shake bees out in front of the hive, the bees will easily walk right back in if they have a ramp up to the entrance. This is especially helpful to the young bees that have never been outside the hive and when their flying skills aren't perfected. I was using just a plain board until I saw that Bob Binnie had one that he uses

that has t-shirt material on it. This is a good material to use because it provides them with traction but doesn't have such a heavy nap that the bees get stuck on it.

I had the perfect shirt to use. It's one that I got at Parris Island (a U.S. Marine Corp boot camp) that says "Take a Hike." I stapled it to a board that provides a gentle slope from the ground to the entrances of my Langstroth hives. I made a second longer one for my top bar and long Langstroth hives.

It's so fun to watch the bees march up the walk boards as if they were in a parade! 🐝










It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.


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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

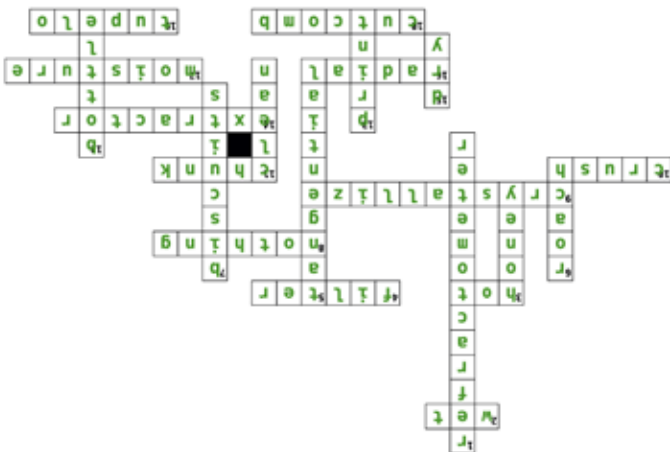
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



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! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

In May, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association welcomed **Dr. Kate Ihle** from the ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics & Physiology Lab in Baton Rouge, LA. She talked about the diverse work the lab is doing to learn more about honey bee genetics and techniques

beekeepers can use to promote their health and vigor. She shared recent findings and plans for further research into social apoptosis, a phenomenon where honey bee larvae slow and eventually stop developing when under attack by Varroa mites. This is strong in *Apis cerana* and they're looking at the trait in *Apis mellifera* now.

Bruce Breedlove conducted an inspection of EPBA's extension hives for newbies. One hive needed corrective measures and there were many good beginners' questions asked and answered. The club also voted to apply to join the **Bee Informed Partnership's Sentinel Apiary Program.** 🍯



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, May 17 at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The mentoring session was attended by several newbies as well as seasoned beekeepers. A PowerPoint presentation on varroa was provided by HOGBA president **Jonathan Hayes**. The activity for the monthly meeting was how to conduct a sugar shake and alcohol wash to determine varroa mite count. There were several questions and comments regarding treatment. It was a very informative presentation and discussion. Our next meeting will be June 21. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm and the regular meeting follows at 7. We look forward to seeing you! **Check us out on Facebook** and at hogba.org. 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association welcomed **Georgia Zumwalt** to our May meeting. Georgia was generous to share her tips on photographing honey bees. She is a Master Photographer and Certified Beekeeper from Jackson County, GA and president of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association. She also serves the GBA membership as Secretary.

She's had a camera attached to one hand and a coffee cup attached to the other for over 30 years and in 2018 she decided to set the coffee cup down periodically in order to manage a bee smoker. She began her photography career in the late 1980s. Over the years, her work has been used by the National Audubon Society, Estée Lauder, Kubota, Fleishman Hillard and, as of 2021, her work is featured in the GBA "Save the Honey Bee" license plate campaign. 🍯



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At its May meeting, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association welcomed renowned honey judge **Michael Young**. From Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, Michael is one of the world's premier connoisseurs and judges of honey. He is also an expert exhibitor of beekeeping products. Competing in shows around the world, he has won more than 900 prize cards. A beekeeper for more than 35 years, Michael has amassed a lengthy list of international certifications, including Georgia Master Beekeeper. He offered many practical tips for successfully exhibiting honey and spoke about honey from a cultural standpoint – in fable, myth, religion and medicine. 🍯



Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, May 16th, **Cory Momany** (UGA Journeyman Beekeeper and Vice President of OCBC) discussed Long Langstroth Hives and how modern beekeeping methods can be adapted to them. He covered topics such as the benefits and disadvantages, features that are helpful, queen rearing, supering and swarm control. He also compared the Long Langstroth to horizontal hives such as Lazutin and Top Bar.



Pictured club members are Elizabeth and Alan Gingle, Frank Alciatti, Joe Conti, Lynn Faust, and Cory Momany.

On Saturday, May 14th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club attended the Marigold Festival in Winterville, Georgia. Education was our main focus, but the live bees in an observation hive that **Dan Long** brought attracted hundreds of people to our booth, and ultimately resulted in so much honey being sold that the club treasury netted \$265. Thanks to honey providers **Joe Conti, Dan Long, Cory Momany, and Mike Conner**. Several other club members were instrumental in keeping things flowing in a hectic atmosphere such as **Frank Alciatti, Blaine Everson, Barbara Read, Anna Conti, Susan and Jeff Wilhelm.** 🍯

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

Southwest Georgia Beekeepers Club

At the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club's May meeting, club president, **Kat Tucker** reminded everyone that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. She spoke about bee mental health and how it can affect their overall health and production. Kat also talked to members about how beekeepers can lead busy lives with work, beekeeping and other activities to juggle so they need to take steps to take good care of themselves. "Volunteering is doing good for someone else and it's a form of self care - it makes us feel good about our lives" is how Kat described the fourth step of her "Four Ways to Relax Your Mind."

We also want to say a big thank you to GBA Director **Karen Palmer** for attending the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club bee lab. She demonstrated how to light a smoker and offered guidance and recommendations to our new and used beekeepers. We had more than 15 members attend our bee lab at Chehaw Park in Albany. *Thanks again, Karen!* 🍯



Above Left: Part of Kat Tucker's presentation on mental health;

Above Right: Karen Palmer demonstrates lighting a smoker

Tri-County Beekeepers Association

Bobby Chaisson, Georgia Master Beekeeper and Operations Director at Georgia Bee Removal, did a guided inspection of the club hives followed by a detailed review session for the upcoming UGA Certified Beekeeper exam.



The Certified Beekeeper exam is the first level of the UGA Master Beekeeper Program.

While Georgia Master Beekeeping Program exams are typically administered at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, TriCounty Beekeepers gave 11 club members the opportunity to take the Certified Exam at Lanier Bee Barn on Sunday, May 15th. *All 11 passed!* Congratulations to all who participated and a huge thanks to all who volunteered at this event.

Our next regular club meeting will be Monday, June 13th, 2022, 7pm – 9pm. Certified Beekeeper, and TriCounty Beekeepers Vice President, **Chris Smith** will give an overview of harvesting honey. Weather permitting, we will check the club hives at 6:30 before the meeting.

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest club events and news. 🍯

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	gabeesecretary@gmail.com	770-595-4187
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabeetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
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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
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Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm		Jun. 6	Pot Luck meeting – Bring a side or dessert to share and any questions you have about bees!	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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				aron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Jun. 14	Annual Club Picnic	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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				clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm		Jun. 6	Honey Bee Photography – Georgia Zumwalt	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		Jun. 23	Diseases and Disorders of the Hive – Butch Shelton & Bill Dunn	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd., McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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](#)).

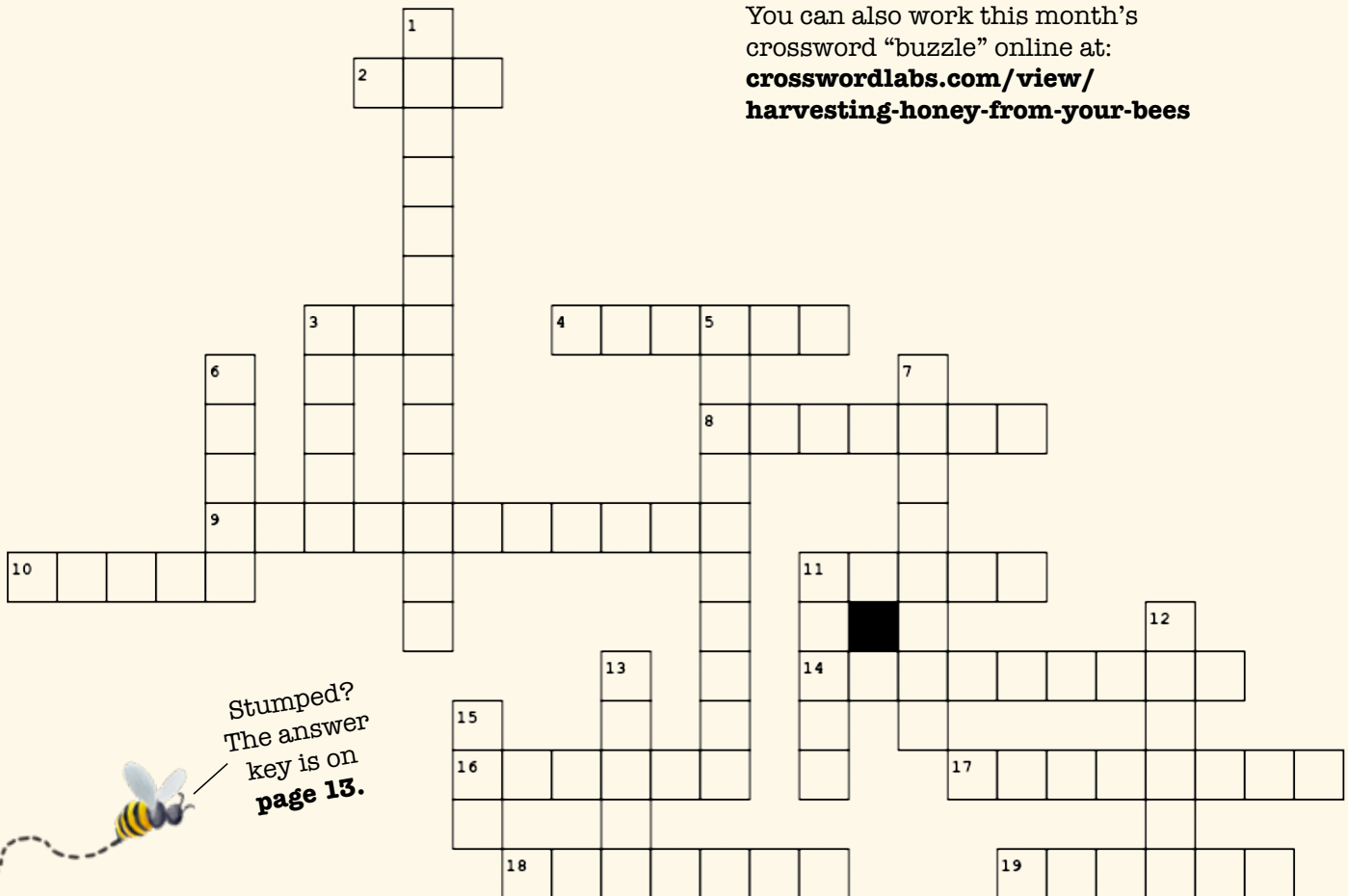
Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm		Jun. 2	<i>Building a honey house and honey harvesting techniques – Steve Jones; How to extract honey without an extractor – Kathy Bourn</i>	lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littliverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid	Jun. 21	<i>MABA Swarm Trap Cluster plan – Jimmy Gatt</i>	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbcbclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashp@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Jun. 13	<i>The Ins And Outs Of Honey Processing – Chris Smith</i>	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 Association of 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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 pm (mentoring, 6:30 pm)				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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle

Harvesting Honey from Your Bees

You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at:
crosswordlabs.com/view/harvesting-honey-from-your-bees



ACROSS:

2. Cappings on honey that sit against the honey
3. Sometimes people use this kind of knife to remove the cappings from the honey
4. This is used to get particles out of the harvested honey
8. What should be on the lid of your honey container, in the honey judge's opinion
9. Most honey will do this after a long time in a bottle
10. What you do to the wax in an easy way to harvest honey involving pounding the honey comb
11. Honey with liquid surrounding a comb in the middle of the jar
14. This flings the honey around to use centrifugal force to get it out of the honey comb
16. In this type of extractor the top bar of the frame faces outward
17. Honey should only be harvested that is below 18.6 Percent of this
18. A four inch square of honeycomb usually sold in a plastic box
19. A type of honey that will stay liquid forever

DOWN:

1. Used to detect water percentage in honey
3. Every beekeeper thinks that his/her own _____ tastes the best
5. In this type of extractor the comb faces outward
6. Teachers joke that this kind of bug can be in a black jar and the honey will still win the Black Jar contest
7. The most delicious vehicle for good honey - especially when hot and buttered
11. The most important aspect of any jar into which you pour honey - it must be _____
12. These are glass or plastic containers for the honey
13. A honey judge must not detect one of these on the surface of a glass jar (wear gloves when bottling)
15. Cappings on honey that are white and beautiful



Spilling *The* Honey

JULY 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of us are enjoying honey harvests, family vacations and other summer activities, GBA is busy getting ready for our fall conference. This September, our conference speakers will include **Dr. Mohammad Alburaki** (USDA Research Scientist at the Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD), **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** (UGA infectious disease biologist, entomologist, and evolutionary ecologist), **Dr. Samuel Ramsey** (Endowed Professor of Entomology at Colorado University - Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute), and **Melanie Kirby** (queen breeder, consilience researcher, and writer). Honey sensory expert and author **Marina Marchese** will present a special honey tasting session.

Additionally, conference attendees will learn more about how we can use our GBA membership software more efficiently, receive an overview of the new Georgia law regarding structural bee removal work, and at our Friday night dinner, **Bobby Chaisson** will share his long history of fun and interesting beekeeping experiences.

The 2022 GBA fall conference will take place on:

- Thursday, September 22: Board meeting, vendor set-up
- Friday, September 23: Conference, elections, honey show entries received, catered dinner
- Saturday, September 24: Conference, announcement of honey show and election winners

Many thanks to all the volunteers who work all year to keep our great organization going!

Please remember to share information about our SAVE THE HONEY BEE tag with your friends and family. We are hoping to *double* the number on the road!



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Happy Fourth of July and summer to all! 🍯

- Gina



TAG ALONG

See what the License Plate Proceeds Committee has been doing for you!

Everyone must be remarkably busy with their bees this June. This is the only month since the inception of the License Plate Proceeds Committee, that there has been only a single grant application!

What does your club need? The year is at the halfway point. Let's make the grant applications for the remainder of the year extra special!

Below are some tips for applying from the LPP Committee:

- Remember to include details in your request. Let us know how your organization will use the funds desired *i.e.*, purchase what and how many are needed, provide what equipment, etc.
- It is best to itemize your request with one line per item and price.
- Double check your entries to be certain the name is correct, provide an address that includes a zip code and provide a total for the item amount requested.
- If your request is for an event, tell us if there are any fees connected with participation.
- While speakers are a great asset to every club, the committee cannot provide every club with a year's worth of speakers. We are trying to accommodate the needs of each club; please be considerate and limit your applications to only four speakers per year.

The significance of each request is deliberated by the committee and takes into consideration, the funds available at the time and the number of applications considered.

When you attend a fair or other community event, help spread the news by mentioning the Save the Honey Bee tag. It is the sales of these tags that makes the funds available to help in the most magnificent ways! 🐝

YOUR LPP COMMITTEE

Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman

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.

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.

What can you ask for? Just about anything that supports the education of your members! This includes things like paying for guest speaker fees, covering start-up costs for beekeeper training programs, setting up a club apiary, purchasing equipment for your club meetings, or staging any sort of program or project that will help educate your members to be better beekeepers.

To apply, [click here](#) and follow all of the instructions. 🐝



🐝 Plants for Bees: Winged Sumac 🐝

by **Jimmy Gatt**, president, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) is also known as flameleaf sumac and shining sumac. This plant, like several other species of sumac, is a colonizing shrub or small tree. It blooms in the heart of the summer dearth in our region, and for that reason, is probably the single most important plant you can plant for your honey bees. I cannot think of a more beneficial, high-impact plant for honey bees.

Winged sumac does best in full sun, and can tolerate just about any kind of soil. This is why it is often seen growing in cleared or disturbed areas. Sumac is a “pioneer plant” and will often pop up before other hardwoods are established.

Winged sumac normally spreads via seeds, but also spreads more frequently by underground stems (“stolons”) and will form a colony. For this reason, some people call sumac “weedy” and some plant nurseries will call it a “trash tree.” If you plant any sort of sumac, expect to see it popping up in random places on your property.

I have some smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) that volunteered in my yard, and one plant has become ten within just two years. I have also pulled up about seven of them that I couldn’t tolerate. Expect to do this if you plant any species of sumac.

Sumac honey is alleged to be splendid, though it’s more likely that your bees will simply eat the nectar from winged sumac since it’s blooming in the peak of the summer dearth. Perhaps if you allow your winged sumac to spread sufficiently, you will get a super of sumac honey. I would love to see sumac honey compete with basswood to become the best honey in the world!

The fruits of winged sumac are also useful. They are coated with a sour, lemony flavor so you can steep them in water to make a kind of sumac “lemonade.” Since the sour flavor is water-soluble, this will not work if it has recently rained since the rain will wash the coating off of the berries. However, my favorite use for sumac berries is smoker fuel. My neighbor used to have a winged sumac tree and I would harvest the berries from it. The smoke is thick and gentle, almost “soft.” It is my absolute favorite smoker fuel.

Winged sumac is a dearth-slaying, nectar-giving, bee-saving, easy-to-grow, awesome-honey-producing, native plant that makes the best smoker fuel. What more can we ask of a native plant? 🍯

What’s in a name?

“Sumac” comes from the Aramaic word *summaqa* which means “dark red.” The plant is called “winged” sumac because of the leaf-like “wings” that hug the branches between the leaflets. It’s called “flameleaf” because of its brilliant red color in autumn. The word *Rhus* is the Greek word for sumac, and the word *copallinum* is Latin-ified Greek meaning “producing gum copal” because the dried sap of this plant resembles the very useful “gum copal” dried sap of the copal tree (*Daniellia spp.*).



Above Top: Honey bees foraging on Winged sumac blooms.
Middle: Sumac spreading in the author’s garden bed. Bottom: Sumac fruits can be brewed into a beverage or utilized by beekeepers as smoker fuel.

NOW OPEN:

THE NEW MARIGOLD HONEY HOUSE

by **Dan Long**, President, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Sweet news: The shared honey house in Winterville is up and running! The Marigold Honey House has been a couple of years in the making and involved a lot of work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the City of Winterville. There's still more to do, but phase one is operational and beekeepers are extracting and bottling honey already:

- The **Cristopherson family** had their first harvest ever, but didn't have any equipment. With the help of an experienced beekeeper, they were able to uncap and spin out their frames and then fill up their bottling bucket and take it home.
- A beekeeper with a really busy schedule, **Ania M.**, was able to book an evening slot for her extraction recently. She commented that the facility was very nice and had great suggestions for a few miscellaneous supplies to make it even better.
- The **UGA Veterinary School Bee Treatment Crew** extracted at the honey house recently as well. They worked hard spinning and bottling all in one shot; ending up with 180 lbs. of honey that they will sell to support their work and research.
- My own **Tallassee Highlands Apiary** extracted there, but I also went the next step and got my own license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture to be able to wholesale honey. It involved some paperwork, money and a brief inspection of the honey house. They approved my labels and checked out the facility. Since I already had it licensed as a shared commercial kitchen, everything was in order and it went smoothly.

As we see the need growing, we will be moving into a dedicated space nearby where we'll be able to set up a larger extractor and more equipment for more efficient operation. We should be able to accommodate sideliners more easily then. In the meantime, beekeepers are welcome to bring their own equipment to use in the honey house in addition to what's there.

The Marigold Honey House is available weekdays and weekends in eight-hour increments (morning or evening start) to allow enough time for you to clean up. *Yes, you must clean up after yourself!* Right now, it's best if a beekeeper with some harvest experience is there who knows how to operate an extractor. We're working on training materials for newbees but please bring someone with you if it's your first time. Those with experience will find the equipment familiar and useful. We have a Maxant motorized extractor, uncapping tanks and bottling tanks. Also, if you're licensed, you don't have to extract in the facility. You may rent the honey house just for your bottling for wholesale.

To book a time, contact Sherrie Anderson at marigoldmarket@outlook.com. If you have questions, contact me: Dan@TallasseeHighlands.com 🍯

Many thanks to everyone who has a Georgia **Save The Honey Bee license plate** and the **GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee** for granting funds for the extraction equipment! (To learn how you can apply for funds, see page 2)



Photo Credit Julia Mahood



Photo Credit Julia Mahood



Photo Credit Bobby Thanepohn

WHITE-EYED DRONES

by **Bobby Thanepohn**, Vice President, Etowah River Beekeepers

At the Etowah River Beekeepers annual summer picnic and workshop our members were shown a fairly rare sight: white-eyed drones. A hive in one of our club's teaching apiaries had a queen that was producing a large amount of white-eyed drones in her colony.

As we all know and expect, black is the dominant eye color gene in honey bees. Since drones come from unfertilized eggs and are haploid, they only carry one set of chromosomes from the queen. This can sometimes result in recessive genes being expressed, in this case those affecting eye color.

White-eyed drones behave like their typical brethren within the hive, but the similarity ends there. The drones are completely blind meaning they will never leave the colony.

I posted a picture of one of our white-eyed drones to Instagram (@**bobbeemacbees**) and almost immediately got a text message on my phone from Julia Mahood (@**map_my_dca**).

“CAN YOU PUT HIM/THEM IN ALCOHOL FOR GENETIC TESTING?”

Julia, having heard Brock Harpur speak about the honey bee genome work he is doing at Purdue University in Indiana, saw an opportunity to help with his research. She reached out to see if he wanted some of my club's drones. The answer was, “Yes, and could they have the queen too?”

Julia made the trip up to Canton and she and I had a great time in the 95 degree heat capturing several drones, tracking down the queen and putting her in a cage. The queen is now at Purdue University in a nuc where her offspring and her genetics will be studied! If you ever see drones with odd colored eyes, reach out to **@realharpurlab** and let him know!

The Etowah River Beekeepers are grateful that Julia reached out and she assisted our club with its contribution to research. 🍯

The hive in the Etowah River Beekeepers teaching apiary where the white-eyed drones were found was made possible, in part, by funds generated by GBA's *Save the Honey Bee* license plate. (To learn how you can apply for funds, see page 2)



TWO MILLION UNINVITED HOUSE GUESTS

BEE DELIVERY CRISIS AVERTED

by *Gail Dean, Past President, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association*

This was not your typical Tuesday morning in May! It started when I got a call from a northeast Georgia bee supplier from whom I'd previously purchased items. They had been contacted by a homeowner in Villa Rica who does not keep bees. Returning from walking her dog at 7:30 a.m. that morning, she discovered eight pallets of bee hives, sitting in her front yard!

I immediately called the homeowner, got the scoop and asked for a picture. The photo revealed not only eight pallets of beehives, but that they were all deeps with two to four supers on each hive. Figuring about 60,000 bees per hive times 32 hives, *that's 1,920,000 bees, give or take a few!*

The Villa Rica homeowner had called her neighbors to see if any beekeepers lived in the area, and there were none. Then she called the police, who told her to *destroy the hives!* Thank goodness she didn't want to do that. Instead, she googled "bee hives in Georgia" and the bee supplier who had reached out to me that day popped up first.

My immediate inclination was to call Bob Binnie. I've known Bob for years, and he had recently been a guest speaker at Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. I had the good fortune to host Bob and his wife for dinner before the meeting. I called his Blue Ridge Honey company and, lucky for me, he had just walked into the building. After describing the situation, and asking him if he

knew any commercial beekeepers in the Carroll County - Villa Rica area, he told me he knew one and gave me a name and cell phone number. I called and the beekeeper answered on the first ring. After I explained the situation, he replied, "Oh no! My guys delivered the bees to the wrong address! Tell her I'm in my truck and on my way to get the bees!"

At 10:30 a.m. I got a confirmation text that all was well. The hives had been picked up and safely delivered to the right location. Many thanks to Bob for his help and beekeeping connections. *It was a good ending to a story which could have otherwise ended so badly!* 🍯



A Villa Rica homeowner came home to discover eight pallets of bees mis-delivered to her yard.

Do We Keep Honey Bees or Honeybees?

by *Kathy Bourn*

If you see anything written about the bugs that we keep in a box, you will see their common name spelled two different ways. I've even seen it spelled two different ways within the same sentence. There are other creatures that have this same problem. Is it bumble bee or bumblebee, dragon fly or dragonfly, silver fish or silverfish? So, which way is correct?

It comes down to who gets to decide the common names of bees. Is it the Entomological Society of America or non-entomologists? Since 1908, the **ESA Common Names of Insects Database** has compiled more than 2,000 insect names. Those names are reviewed by the governing board and generally follow a simple rule. This rule, as stated in *Anatomy of the Honey Bee* by Robert E. Snodgrass (1956), reads "*If the insect is what its name implies, write the two words separately; otherwise put them together.*" As an example: a house fly is a fly



so it is two words but a butterfly is not a fly so it is one word.

It seems that entomological usage and general usage have diverged over time. Part of the problem seems to come from the fact that this rule doesn't apply outside entomology. It's catfish, not cat fish and teapot, not tea pot. Non-scientific publications tend to use the one word spelling from the dictionary while the two word spelling is preferred in scientific writings. Even the world-renowned entomologist from Cornell, Dr. Thomas Seeley uses both spellings in his book titles *The Lives of Bees - The Untold Story of the Honey Bee in the Wild* and *Honeybee Democracy*.

Well, I'm going to continue to go with honey bee, just because I think it makes me sound smarter than I am. Now we have to straighten out if it's beebread or bee bread, beehive or bee hive and beekeeper or bee keeper. 🍯

Karen Palmer

by *Linda Tillman, GBA Past-President*

Karen Palmer, current GBA Director for the eastern part of our state, is a hard worker, no matter what she undertakes. She learned the value of hard work and dedication from the example set by her parents and she feels passionate about all of her many projects.

She was first introduced to bees in 2006 when the middle of her three sisters was in Paraguay serving in the Peace Corps. Her sister kept Africanized bees with homemade equipment down to the veils. Karen was fascinated by what she heard. At that time, she and her husband lived in Costa Rica where she also had a friend there who was keeping bees. Shortly after returning to the states, she saw a flyer for a beekeeping class at Lake Country Beekeepers Association. She signed up and has never looked back!



While Karen is the beekeeper, her husband, Jason, is the “go-getter” – as in when Karen says, “Honey, I need a deep with eight frames,” Jason goes and gets it. He helps in lots of ways, but she is the detail person who pays attention to the bees and their issues.

Karen started in the Lake Country Beekeepers when her family was living in Statesboro. She is also a member of Altamaha, CEBA, Henry County and Heart of Georgia. As a volunteer on the GBA Zoom committee, she got to see and participate in clubs that were not in her home area while she hosted their Zoom meetings. Another reason she belongs to so many clubs is so she can network and learn from as many beekeepers as possible. Karen receives many swarm calls through her website savannahbeeremoval.com as well as by being a well-known beekeeper and owner of Honey Please, LLC. She posts these on the local club’s web page closest to the swarm. As a bee removal expert she knows the easiest

way to remove bees is while they are a free-hanging swarm.

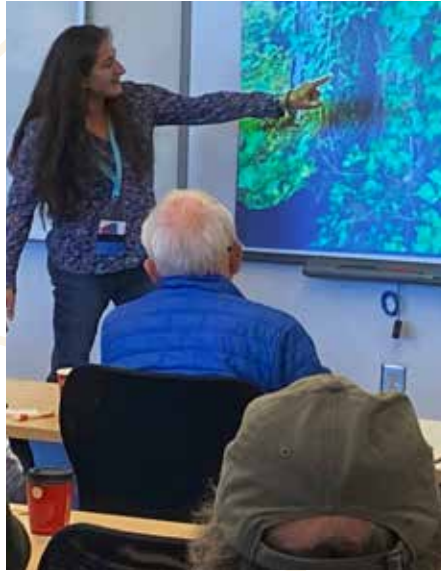
Karen does a lot of bee removals. She was trained by the best: Harold Ward, a nominee for GBA Beekeeper of the Year several years ago, and a recipient of the lifetime achievement award. Through working for Harold since 2016, Karen learned the art of bee removal.

Because of her years of experience in bee removal and leadership skills, Karen was included on the GBA Structural Pest Control HBR Work Group. She works with Derrick Lastinger, Tim Taylor, and others to help develop this training program. At the beginning Karen found herself defending her right to do bee removals, but now she sees it as a mission to help people understand all the aspects of doing a honey bee removal with the best results and least likelihood of reinfestation. Like many other skilled trades, there has to be some regulatory way to organize and protect the process out of concern for the consumers.

Karen has a background and expertise in construction, which helps her with her bee removals.



GBA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Left to Right: Because of her years of experience in bee removal and leadership skills, Karen was included on the GBA Structural Pest Control HBR Work Group. Karen speaking at GBA's 2022 Spring Conference. Karen working on a cut-out.

(continued from previous page)

That is what the mission of this work group has been: working together to get great results for everyone.

Karen has a background and expertise in construction, which helps her with her removals. She owns several rental properties for which she does all her own maintenance and repairs. Most were old houses that needed a lot of work when they got them. She had to repair leaky roofs, put in ceilings, siding, and employ lots of hands-on experience. She would hire someone to do something she didn't know how to do, watch them closely while they did the repair, and learn so she could do it herself the next time. Then came YouTube and Tik Tok, so now it's even easier; if she's not sure how to do something, there's probably a video about it.

She and Jason still have a few rental houses, but they have shifted more toward beekeeping and goats. She does paid bee removals and sells nucs and queens. Karen got her commercial license from the state in 2019 registered with the Department of Agriculture under the name "Honey Please!" At the time she was selling bees to SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) and needed to have them inspected, so she got the license.

Running to be a director with GBA seemed like a natural thing to do. She was already involved with a lot of clubs anyway; she could be more in the know and more involved. She enjoys her work as a GBA Director. "I like meeting new people. I like talking to people and seeing people get involved. My enthusiasm for beekeeping is part of who I am - I like talking about bees so when people want to talk about bees I enjoy that." The director position does pose some challenges. Karen tries to reach out to all the clubs in her area. She tries to figure out what the clubs need and how she can help.

Karen is also a speaker for clubs and for GBA. She has a long list of clubs to which she has spoken and has a list of topics she likes to present. From experience, I can say that it is a treat to hear Karen give a talk. Her passion for the topic is obvious and she really engages with her audience. Her favorite talks are the ones she gave recently at Young Harris on Bee Removal 101 and The Art of the Trapout. She also likes the process of developing a talk. She says she learns a lot herself in the preparation and research needed to give a talk. And she learns from the questions her audience asks her and the people she interacts with, too.

When asked what she gets out of volunteering in general, Karen says, "It's in my nature to be a helper, a mothering type of person." She loves to motivate people. The difficult part of volunteering is making time for herself. Sometimes she acknowledges that she overcommits.

Originally from Brooklyn, Karen has lived a very interesting life. In Costa Rica, she and her husband ran an import/export service, helping people get things into and out of the country: cars, household items, lumber. She also loves to vacation in unusual places not on a top 10 list. One of her favorite relaxation activities is sitting by the ocean, looking at the stars.

Karen seems like the energizer bunny, always involved, always on the move. I have a hard time imagining her sitting still on a beach, gazing at the stars, but I'll bet she brings the same passion she puts into all her projects to her relaxation as well and truly immerses herself in those stars!

Karen began a talk she gave at GBA with a cartwheel and a flip. That level of high energy is what makes her a great GBA Volunteer of the Month! 🍯

New Observations Upon Bees

Francois Huber

Book review by **David Hinton**, Nashville Area Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTE: We present this book review as part of an ongoing exchange of newsletter content with the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association; they share their book reviews with us and we share our Beekeeper's Workbench column and Crossword "Buzzle."

Every field has its accomplished master who gives society a masterpiece. In literature we might choose Shakespeare and *Macbeth*, for music Beethoven and the Ninth Symphony, for philosophy Plato and *The Republic*, for painting Leonardo da Vinci and Mona Lisa. These masterpieces are works that have stood the test of time.

My nomination for the master and masterpiece in beekeeping is Francois Huber and his massive work *New Observations Upon Bees, The Complete Volumes I & II*.

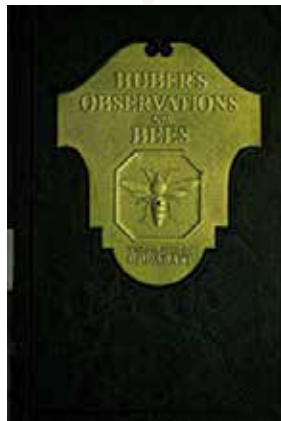
For us contemporary readers, Huber's observations aren't so new; in fact, the book was originally published in France in 1792 and translated into English and German shortly after. We continue to read his book today because his observations were groundbreaking and still hold true. Huber informed his readers with startling new facts about honey bees such as his revelation that the queen does not mate in the hive but rather in the air during a mating flight; that bees can convert eggs into queens by feeding royal jelly; and he describes how queens battle each other, and how drones are "massacred" at the end of summer or in early fall. Some of his observations were made with his new invention – a glass-sided hive that was the forerunner of today's observation hives.

Huber's work as a scientist/observer was held in such high esteem that Charles Darwin treasured his copy of Huber's book and commented on it in his own ground-breaking *The Origin of Species*.

Now for the twist in the story: Francois Huber, that great observer of the honey bee *was blind!*

Francois Huber was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1750 to a distinguished family. His father, John Huber, was what is today referred to as a renaissance man – a gifted painter, sculptor, musician, and most of all, a witty conversationalist whose company was valued by the famous French philosopher Voltaire. His son followed his father's tastes but added his own personal passion for the natural sciences and, in particular, the honey bee.

In his mid-teens, Huber began to suffer from a disease which gradually resulted in total blindness by his mid-twenties. His father took him to the most famous physicians in Europe for treatment but to no avail. Before he became totally blind, he



began a romance with Marie Aimee Lullin that is worthy of a Hollywood movie. She defied her father's command not to be involved with this handicapped young man, but had to wait until the age of 25, the legal age of majority at the time, to marry Francois. She devoted her life to her husband's life and work and became "his eyes."

So, are we to trust the scientific observations of a blind man?

My answer to that question is: never underestimate the ability of the mind to overcome the limitations of the body's senses. We listen to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony despite the fact that Beethoven was totally deaf when he

wrote it. Even though written by a deaf man, the Ninth is arguably Beethoven's greatest work and a masterpiece of classical music.

Huber had a powerful intellect and he always drew upon the visual memories of his sighted childhood. In addition to the assistance of his wife, Huber taught his young assistant Francois Burnens how to observe, and directed his observations. Burnens remained with him throughout his life.

Huber's observations are written in beautiful, detailed prose. As an example, here is what he wrote about his introduction of a new queen into a hive: "*We next introduced into this hive a very prolific Queen, whose corselet we had painted to distinguish her from the reigning Queen: a circle of bees quickly formed around this stranger, but their intention was not to welcome or caress her, for they insensibly so accumulated around her and surrounded her so closely, that in a minute she lost her liberty and found herself a prisoner...*"

Huber's *New Observations* was translated into a 632-page English edition in 1926 by Camille Pierre Dadant, the French immigrant founder of the Illinois-based beekeeping company bearing his name. Dadant & Sons Inc. has kept the book in print since then. I thoroughly recommend it – not perhaps to be read cover to cover, but to be dived into and sampled throughout for the hundreds of gems to be found in his observations. 🍯

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

Homemade Honey Heater

by Kevin McCraney, President, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

If you've been a beekeeper for any amount of time, you've likely run into the issue of crystallized honey. My story is no different. In fact, all my spring honey will eventually turn solid in the bucket. I recently had some honey in plastic angel bottles that started to crystallize, so here's the dilemma: How to heat a plastic bottle with a printed label that cannot get wet. Hot water is out of the question since the labels would be ruined and the bottles will warp (ask me how I know!). A friend of mine mentioned a honey heater made from a foam box and a light bulb. I can't take credit for this idea but after listening to him and doing some extensive Google research, I came up with the following design using a few store bought items and some items lying around my shop.

In true beekeeper fashion, I looked for the lowest cost route. The parts list included four bricks, a leftover piece of wire shelf, ½ inch foil-lined foam insulation, dimmer switch/socket, foil duct tape, a piece of roof flashing (to block direct heat), and a 100-watt bulb.

The most expensive component being the 100-watt equivalent (72 watts actual) bulbs at a cost of \$17 for a four-pack! (Note: They must be incandescent; LEDs don't provide enough heat.) My first attempt at building a honey heater, as you can see in the picture, was too large. The light bulb could not get the temperature up to 90° F. I then reduced the size to 24 inches high (enough to clear a honey bucket) and roughly 20 x 20 inches. I now have no trouble exceeding 100° F even when the temperature in the shop was in the 50s. The dimmer switch can be used to regulate the temperature. I swiped the indoor/outdoor thermometer from the house!

My new honey heater did an excellent job of clearing up the angel bottles. I've since used it to liquify a solid bucket of crystallized honey, warm a bucket of honey prior to bottling, and I currently have wax cappings from a recent harvest in the box being melted down. It's a cheap solution to an age old problem that took all of 30 minutes to build. Enjoy! 🍯



Top Left to Right: The author's first attempt at building a honey heater was too large. Kevin reduced the honey heater's size to 24 inches high (enough to clear a honey bucket) and roughly 20 x 20 inches. The guts of the honey heater consist of many things a beekeeper may already have on hand. Heating a bucket full of crystallized honey. Kevin's honey heater did an excellent job of clearing up his angel bottles. The heater had no trouble exceeding 100° F even when the temperature in the shop was in the 50s



It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.

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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.


Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

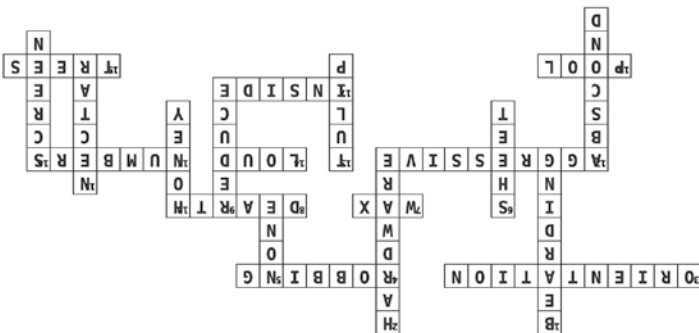
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

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! 🐝



Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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



Clark's Hill Beekeepers

As beekeepers, we must continue to encourage our growth in knowledge and experience with bees. Clarks Hill Beekeepers conducted a UGA Certification Test on Saturday, June 11th under the direction of GBA Director **Bobby Chaisson**. **Ted and Sharon Kuhn** hosted the event at their home. This test was a culmination of a yearlong study of beekeeping held at our monthly meetings and on a few Saturdays. The course syllabus, developed by Ted Kuhn, was based on the *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by **Dr. Keith Delaplane**. The monthly meetings were presented by various members of the club. The Saturday sessions were to allow hive inspections and equipment identification under supervision of certified beekeepers. A review session covered the topics in the course.

On this beautiful Saturday, 10 members of the club participated in the testing and all of them received passing scores to become Certified Beekeepers. The new certified beekeepers (see photos above) are:

- Erik Averill
- Gabriel Hathaway
- Jerome Barthelemy
- Sharon Kuhn
- Scott Cambers
- Ted Kuhn
- Jerry Clay
- Katherine Mahlberg
- Jennifer Cross
- David Stanley

Thank you to those that administered the test:

- Test Director: **Bobby Chaisson** — Master Beekeeper
- Test Supervisor: **David Logue** — Journeyman Beekeeper
- Proctor: **Mary Lackson** — Master Beekeeper
- Proctor & Photographer: **Deborah Sasser** — Journeyman Beekeeper
- Proctor: **Diane Holland** — Certified Beekeeper
- Proctor: **Robert Holland** — Certified Beekeeper

Coweta Beekeepers Association

Coweta Beekeepers Association held our annual picnic in May. It was great getting to see everyone and their family members! We had a lucky few who got to take home a complete hive box kit as a prize. Thank you to those that participated in our games. *We Coweta Beekeepers know how to have fun!*

We also had a May workshop with a great turnout. **Steve Page** and **Bobby Torbush** made it an educational hands-on experience for our members, and we all took home some valuable information. 🍯



Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Georgia Zumwalt taught Eastern Piedmont's membership and guests about how to photograph bees during our beekeeping adventures. Club secretary **Heidi Simmonds** ran an inspection for newbees outside before the meeting. Some 45 people were in attendance. 🍯



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

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, June 21 at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The mentoring session was attended by several "newbies" as well as seasoned beekeepers. The program, presented by HOGBA President **Jonathan Hayes**, included a presentation on honey extraction, as well as hands-on demonstration. It was a very informative presentation and discussion including several questions/comments regarding when and how to take frames, uncapping the frames, methods of extracting the honey and bottling and proper labeling.



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 19. Our program will consist of our annual Swap Meet and cookout. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting follows at 7:00 p.m. Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org.

Oglethorpe County Beekeepers

Joe Conti (right), President of the Oglethorpe County Beekeepers, gave a presentation on Honey Bee Biology at the June 20th meeting. This was an in-depth presentation of all the physical and chemical properties that enable a honey bee to exist. Behaviors associated with these characteristics were included, as well as identification of frame structures as they relate to the important lifecycle timetables of the queen, workers, and drones.



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

MABA's June meeting speaker was club president **Jimmy Gatt** (right), who introduced a new initiative: the **MABA Swarm Trap Cluster**. The goal of this exciting project is to design, build and distribute at least one swarm trap to MABA's entire membership. As swarms are captured, the swarm trap cluster will remove nuisance bees from the environment and get them back into beekeepers' apiaries. Using the club's existing swarm hotline infrastructure, unwanted swarm captures will be distributed among the club, potentially eliminating the need for purchasing bees commercially altogether.



In June, MABA also participated in the **2022 National Pollinator Week Festival** in Decatur. MABA board members **Claressa Lucas** and **Charlie Scott** (below left and right) staffed the club's tent/table answering bee questions, showing off bees in the observation hive, passing out literature, etc. This was a great public-facing event for MABA to be a part of! Many beekeepers (and potential future beekeepers) were in attendance.



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
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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
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Karen Palmer	Southeast Georgia	honeyplease007@gmail.com	912-678-2144
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Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		July 11	Honey Bee Nutrition –Kathy Bourn	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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 p.m.		July 11	How To Tell Honeyflows And The Flowers To Look For – Charles Phillips	clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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		July 28	Katya Busenitz	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				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)

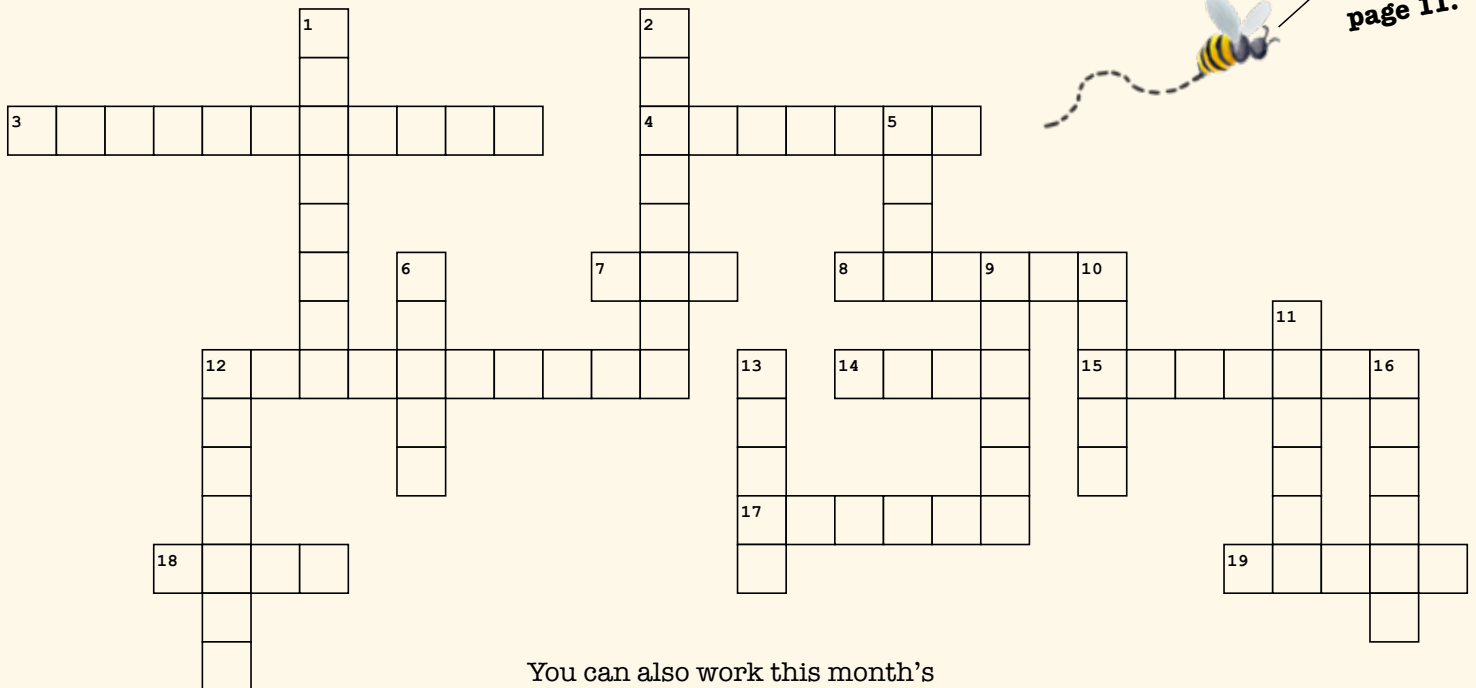
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together. Please fill out this form ([CLICK HERE](#)).

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		July 7	LHBA picnic and honey show held at: 400 Methodist Park Lane Hartwell, Georgia 30643	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid	July 19	Mead Making - Michael Minaardi (Mentoring session will focus on Small Hive Beetles)	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm		July 30	Raising Queens – Steven Page	secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm		July 18	Varroa Mites – Dan Harris	ocbcbclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm		July 18	GBA: The first 100 years –Virginia Webb	tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		July 11	The Many Uses OfThe Double Screen Board – Bob Binnie	info@tricountybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Association of 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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)				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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle

Bees & the Summer Dearth



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 11.

You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at:
crosswordlabs.com/view/bees-and-the-summer-dearth

ACROSS:

3. New beekeepers sometimes think this late afternoon behavior is robbing
4. When hungry bees attack another hive to take its stores
7. If you have a screened bottom board, flakes of this below it indicate that your hive has been robbed.
8. A time between spring flowers and nectar and the winter or fall flow (if you are so lucky)
12. The typically peaceful hive may have this type of attitude during a dearth
14. The opposite of quiet - how bees sound during the dearth
15. The population of bees is high in summer and the _____ of bees create stress for the hive
17. If you feed your hive during this period, the feeder should be located: _____ the hive
18. Your bees may visit your neighbor's _____ during the summer and disturb the fun
19. A good thing to plant - especially ones that bloom in the dearth - to help our bees by providing in essence a meadow

DOWN:

1. You see this on the outside of the hive during the dearth because fewer bees are out foraging with no nectar and it's really hot inside the hive
2. The simplest robber screen is made of this "cloth" stapled over the entrance
5. How much wax will your bees make during the dearth?
6. Putting a wet one of these over the hive may stop a robbery
9. What you should do to your hive entrance during this period
10. During the dearth, a hive can use up its stores of this quite quickly
11. The bees experience a shortage of this during the dearth
12. Bees may do this during the dearth but they do not swarm
13. The end of the bloom of this type of poplar signals the end of the nectar flow in middle Georgia
16. Used to block the entrance of the hive to protect against thieves



Spilling *The* Honey

AUGUST 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GBA's 2022 Fall Conference (September 22 - 24) is fast approaching. Please read **Linda Tillman's** four profiles our conference keynote speakers – **Dr. Mohammed Alburaki, Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Melanie Kirby and Dr. Sam Ramsey** – in our conference preview section (pages 3 - 7). Judging by the number of registrations we have so far, this is going to be a well attended fall conference. *Don't miss it! Register today.*

Additionally, if you plan to enter the honey show, pay close attention to the GBA Honey Show rules when preparing your entries. *Our judges follow the rules exactly. Rules can be found on our GBA website.*



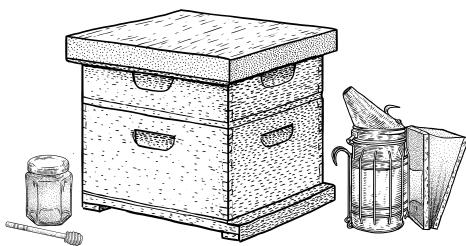
GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 22 - 24
GAINESVILLE, GA



We will be voting for officers and directors at this conference and in order to vote, you must use the email address and password associated with your online GBA membership within our Wild Apricot software. Please make sure you know your information.

All are welcome to join GBA volunteers in helping between conference sessions. Please let me know if you have a skill and might enjoy helping.

Honey Bee Genome Project Supported By License Plate Proceeds



Sales of our *Save The Honey Bee* tag continue to do well and grants allocated by our License Plate Proceeds committee are flowing to local clubs. For example, you can read about the very worthy genome project for which **Julia Mahood** was awarded grant money and is leading on behalf of GBA and Georgia bees (**see Page 8**). If you haven't done so already, please ask friends and family to get a *Save The Honey Bee* plate for their vehicle(s)! 🐝

- Gina



Has Your Club Applied For GBA License Plate Funds?

What are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in well over \$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.** 🐝

YOUR GBA LPP COMMITTEE

Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman



If you were at this year's Young Harris Beekeeping Institute you may have passed the plate – the license plate table that is. Virginia Webb (above) and Kaska Miskolczi helped answer questions and deliver information about the ever popular GBA Save the Bee license plate.



2022 FALL CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

GBA's 2022 Fall Conference takes place next month, **September 22 - 24**, at the **Ramsey Conference Center** in Gainesville, GA. Attendees will hear presentations by keynote speakers: Dr. Mohammed Alburaki, Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Melanie Kirby and Dr. Sam Ramsey. The conference will also feature break-out sessions for you given by Lewis Bartlett, Paul Berry, Bobby Chaisson, Bill Dunn, Victor Halbgewachs, Cindy Hodges, David Hollomon, and Linda Tillman. And GBA webmaster Jonathan Hayes will speak to all of us to teach us how to use best some of the newly implemented functions and features of our GBA website. The conference begins with a board meeting on Thursday and includes a dinner on Friday night with Bobby Chaisson as the featured speaker. 🍯

To register for GBA's Fall Conference,
click here.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS





2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

Dr. Mohammed Alburaki, Ph.D.

By *Linda Tillman*

While many of us discover beekeeping as adults, Dr. Mohamed Alburaki grew up with beekeeping. His father was a beekeeping researcher and, in order to work on his own Ph.D., moved the family from Syria, where Mohamed was born, to France. Even his grandfather was a beekeeper, so Dr. Alburaki has always been around bees and beekeeping.

His own journey has also been very international. Dr. Alburaki received his Ph.D. in France and did postdoctoral work in Quebec, Canada. Then he moved to Knoxville, TN, where he did a second postdoc at the University of Tennessee. And, always getting more education, he did a third postdoc at the University of Southern Mississippi. Now Dr. Alburaki is at the Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, MD with Jay Evans, who spoke to GBA several years ago.

Most of Dr. Alburaki's research is about biotic and abiotic stressors on bees. If you don't know what that means (I didn't), an abiotic stressor might be climate change or a drought, while a biotic change, a living component of the ecosystem, might be the effect of the varroa mite on bee health. He also looks at the factors behind queen failure.

On a personal level, Dr. Alburaki likes karate and is a karate coach. He also reads extensively.

To read an interview with Dr. Alburaki written by Jay Evans in *Bee Culture*, [click here](#).

To see him at his postdoc at University of Tennessee, [here is a two minute video about a study looking at neonicotinoids](#).

At the GBA Fall Conference, Dr. Alburaki will give two talks:

- *Newly Designed RFID Unit to Track Queen Behavior*
- *Genetic Diversity of the US Honey Bee Populations*



To register for GBA's Fall Conference, [click here](#). 



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Ph.D.

By *Linda Tillman*

If you meet a beekeeper wearing bright yellow shoes with bees all over them, more than likely you are talking to Dr. Lewis Bartlett. Lewis is familiar to many Georgia beekeepers in that he is generous with his time and knowledge and speaks to many of our local bee clubs.

Dr. Bartlett began beekeeping about a decade ago in England as both a hobbyist and a researcher. He moved to the US in 2016. He is currently a postdoc in UGA's department of ecology. His interests marry the biology of honey bees and the ecological systems in which they live. He is studying the damage done to bees by diseases and parasites as well as how to help the honey bee handle these threats.

Dr. Bartlett is an entertaining, passionate and enthusiastic speaker who can make science make sense in English – *and with a lovely English accent, to boot!*

There is a long list of his publications [here](#).

You can watch a **discussion he had with Bob Binnie and Jennifer Berry** on varroa treatment [here](#).

At the GBA Fall Conference, Lewis will give the following two keynote talks:

- ***The Science Behind Linking Queen Health, Pesticide Exposure, and Nutrition***
- ***Separating the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Understanding the Differences Between Chemical Exposures to Our Bees***

He is also presenting a breakout talk on ***New Inventions for Small Hive Beetle Control***. 

To register for GBA's Fall Conference, [click here](#). 





2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

Melanie Kirby

By *Linda Tillman*

In gardening, seed saving is a way to propagate species of plants that people treasure for their viability and other good characteristics. Melanie Kirby is the seed-saver of bees. She has been working for years to sort out the good seeds and to propagate them by finding good strains of honey bee that can survive and thrive in the environmental stressors of today.

She first met the honey bee as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. She helped the people there catch swarms and use the bees to support the development of farm crops. After the Peace Corps, fascinated by the honey bee, Melanie studied queen breeding in Hawaii. When she finally returned to her home state of New Mexico, she was well-prepared to work with the honey bee. She talks about how she is drawn to the honey bee in this **three minute video from Slow Food**.

In 2005, she founded **Zia Queen Bees Farm and Field Institute**, where she practices chemical-free beekeeping and raises genetically strong queens which can survive in today's world. She now shares her quality stock of queen bees with beekeepers through her business, Zia Queen Bees.

She has done research, while working on a graduate degree at Washington State, studying honey bee mating, and she was a 2019-2020 Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellow in 2019 - 2020.

If you'd like to hear Melanie tell stories about her journey from the Pueblo Nation to Zia Queen Bees, you can hear two talks from her at the GBA Fall Conference:

- ***Bees as Seeds***
- ***It Takes a Community***



To register for GBA's Fall Conference, **click here.** 



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

PREVIEW

Dr. Sam Ramsey, Ph.D.

By *Linda Tillman*

Dr. Sam Ramsey is the Sherlock Holmes of beekeeping. For years researchers said that the varroa mite feeds on the hemolymph in the bees' bodies. However, through his extensive study following clues in the digestive system of the bee and in the excrement of the bee, Ramsey determined that the varroa mite in fact feeds on the fat body of the bee.

His studies showed that mites fed on hemolymph died, while mites fed on fat body alone thrived and laid lots of eggs. This discovery was monumental in the bee world, changing the way beekeepers think about the varroa mite and how they manage their bees.

We are so lucky to have Dr. Sam Ramsey as one of our keynote speakers at the 2022 GBA Fall Conference. He is an engaging speaker, as anyone who has watched one of his YouTube presentations can tell you. *We are in for a treat!*

To read a well-written piece about Dr. Ramsey, written by the late Ann Harman in 2018, **click here**. To see an entertaining video of Dr. Ramsey as he explains in only three minutes his dissertation on varroa and the fat body, **click here**.

At our GBA conference this fall, Dr. Ramsey will give two talks:

- ***The Varroa Mite Feeds on Bee Blood and Two Alternative Facts***
- ***Biodiversity and Diversity in Bio: What's the Point?***



Photo Credit: Montee McMillan

To register for GBA's Fall Conference, **click here**. 



23andBee:

Georgia Honey Bee Genome Project

Seeks To Map The Genetic Diversity Of Our State's Bees

At the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute this year, Brock Harpur of the Purdue Bee Lab presented his group's work integrating genomics into beekeeping. A goal of his group's work is to sample colonies from each state in the US to get a snapshot of the genetics of honey bees regionally. Those taking part in the survey receive a genetic description of their colonies (e.g. a "23andMe" for bees). Here's a statement from Dr. Harpur:

"The honey bee genome has been available since 2006 and in that time has yet to be leveraged for the beekeeping community. In part, this has been because of the exceptional cost of sequencing genomes: early techniques cost \$10,000 per sample. Today, a single honey bee genome can cost as little as \$50. At this price, it becomes feasible for beekeepers to incorporate genetics into their management practices. For example, we can quantify how much genetic diversity exists within an apiary (and ask if it is enough), from what subspecies does a honey bee colony come from (is it Italian, African, Russian, or something else), do colonies have mutations that are predictive of traits (is that sample

*Varroa resistant), and from where should I purchase my next colony (e.g., to maximize genetic or trait diversity). **To truly begin using genomic techniques in beekeeping,***

we need to have broad sampling of colonies




GBA's License Plate Proceeds Committee has approved funding for genome sequencing of 100 honey bee colonies to record the genomes in Georgia and to include our beekeepers in on-going genomics studies!

representative of the genetic diversity present in our stocks. Our goal is to sample colonies from every US state in partnership with beekeepers to understand patterns of genetic diversity and differentiation. This data will serve as the foundations for future efforts to bring genomics into the industry. By partnering with beekeepers, we can provide them with estimates mentioned above and help them

Continued on next page





*Continued from previous page
more deeply understand their colonies.”*

At this point, no bees have been submitted from Georgia, despite our sizable beekeeping industry.

GBA’s License Plate Proceeds Committee has approved funding for genome sequencing of 100 honey bee colonies to record the genomes in Georgia and to include our beekeepers in on-going genomics studies! Beekeepers will benefit directly from this work and we will be contributing to the future of beekeeping in this country and around the world. On the latter, we will be mapping the genetic diversity of Georgia’s honey bees – one of the foremost beekeeping states in the US and a major provider of colonies nationwide. This resource will allow researchers to identify how and where Georgia’s bees are transported and where their genetics perform best. The beekeepers who provide bees for sequencing will get a report of the genetic makeup of the submitted bees. They will get a report on how likely colonies are to be defensive, a report on where their colonies likely originated, and identification of which colonies are likely to be Varroa resistant. Georgia is at the forefront of beekeeping in the nation and this will help us keep that reputation as beekeeping enters the 21st century.

COSTS

If one were to mail a single sample of bees to the Purdue lab, the cost of sequencing that sample would be \$70. Dr. Harpur is offering GBA the price of \$50 per sample if 100 samples are mailed to him at one time. (Should there be additional interest beyond 100 samples, he has offered to extend the \$50 pricing, if members would like additional colonies sampled.) This is the portion that the GBA license plate funds will cover. There are other costs: collection containers, alcohol and shipping. Participating beekeepers will contribute \$20 to cover those materials and shipping.

In order for Dr. Hapur to receive all the samples at once, participating beekeepers will ship their samples to Julia Mahood, who will freeze them until all are collected, then ship all of them at once to Purdue.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You can register now by filling out this form and paying the \$20 fee. This form will ask you questions about the colony you are sampling.

At the fall meeting on September 23-24 participating GBA members will be given the “kits” consisting of a postage-paid mailer with a leak-proof container filled with 70% isopropyl alcohol. You will be required to sample your colony (one third cup of bees placed in the supplied container covered with alcohol) and take the mailer to the post office on the day you sample. They must be taken to the post office on or before Thursday, October 6, so you will have 12 days to sample your colony.

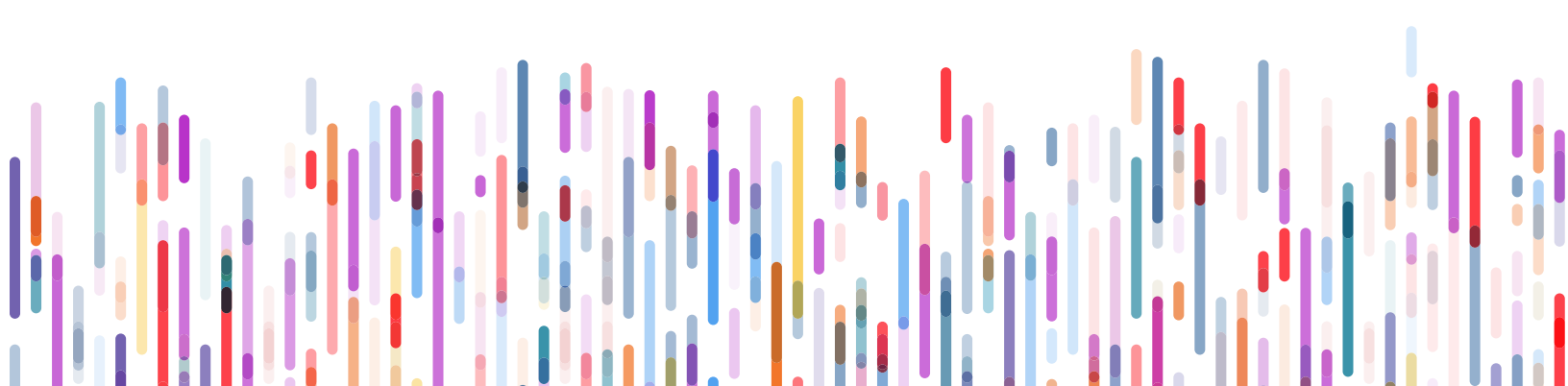
GBA covers the sampling cost paid to Purdue for one colony. If you would like to get additional colonies sampled at the GBA rate of \$50, please reach out to Julia Mahood via email.

If you aren’t going to be at the GBA meeting and would like to participate, you can either have a friend pick up your kit, or contact Julia (julia@mahoodstudio.com) to see about shipping your kit to you.

How exciting it is to have available a “23andBee” through this program! **Click here to be a part of finding out more about your bees than we ever thought possible.** 🐝



Many thanks to everyone who has a Georgia **Save The Honey Bee license plate** and the **GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee** for granting funds for this Honey Bee Genome research project! (*Learn how you can apply for funds: See page 2*)



🐝 Plants for Bees: Summersweet 🐝

by **Jimmy Gatt**, president, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) is a native, deciduous shrub, also called “sweet pepper bush.” The pink specimen, shown here in my front yard, is about four feet tall, though this plant can grow up to 10 feet tall given the correct growing conditions. This plant normally grows in wet, forested areas throughout the southeast, and thus prefers partially shaded areas, even the edges of streams, where it can help prevent erosion. You can pair this plant quite well with your buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) if you are already a fan of that native plant.

This plant smells sweet and amazing. If you have several of them (and you should, if you want your bees to visit them), then they will fill the area with a sweet, almost cloying, smell. The reason why this plant has not gained much traction in horticulture is because it “leaves out” much later than other plants — oftentimes waiting until May before finally growing leaves. I’m not growing this plant solely to look good, though. I am growing it because it blooms in late summer, when bees need nectar most desperately. Yes, this is another dearth-slaving plant. As of July 23, ants and tiny bees have found this specimen of summersweet. The particular cultivar at right has pink flowers. Other cultivars of summersweet have white flowers (below). 🍯



A REMEMBRANCE

JOHN TACKETT, BEEKEEPER

by *Susan Wells, Beekeepers of Gilmer County*

“Susan, you’re a beekeeper. Can you come get the bees out of the porch column on this old house before we tear it down? *Please.*” My dear friend, Mark Moore, an Englishman living on 40 acres near Mineral Bluff, was on the phone. Mark owned an HVAC company and had grown up on a farm in England, but beekeeping was beyond him. I had never even caught a swarm, much less done a removal of an established colony from a structure. But I knew John Tackett would know what to do.

“Give me a minute, Mark. I’ll call my friend.”

“What can I do for you, honey?” John said when he answered. I described the situation and gave him Mark’s number. He stopped to pick up a new Gilmer beekeeper, Chris Curtin, and they drove to Mineral Bluff.

John took some of the ancient equipment he was famous for and boxed up those bees on the spot (while negotiating with Mark for a bee yard on his property). Over the intervening 10 years, the Brit and the beekeeper became fast friends, and John maintained six to eight hives on Mark’s land. Before he died, John asked me to take over that bee yard because he knew that I had learned a lot more about bees, much of it from him, in the meantime.

To know John Tackett was to know he would do anything in his power to help you if he possibly could, especially when what you needed involved bees. He helped so many people start beekeeping. He always encouraged people to keep going, despite the setbacks. He taught every beekeeper his tips and tricks.

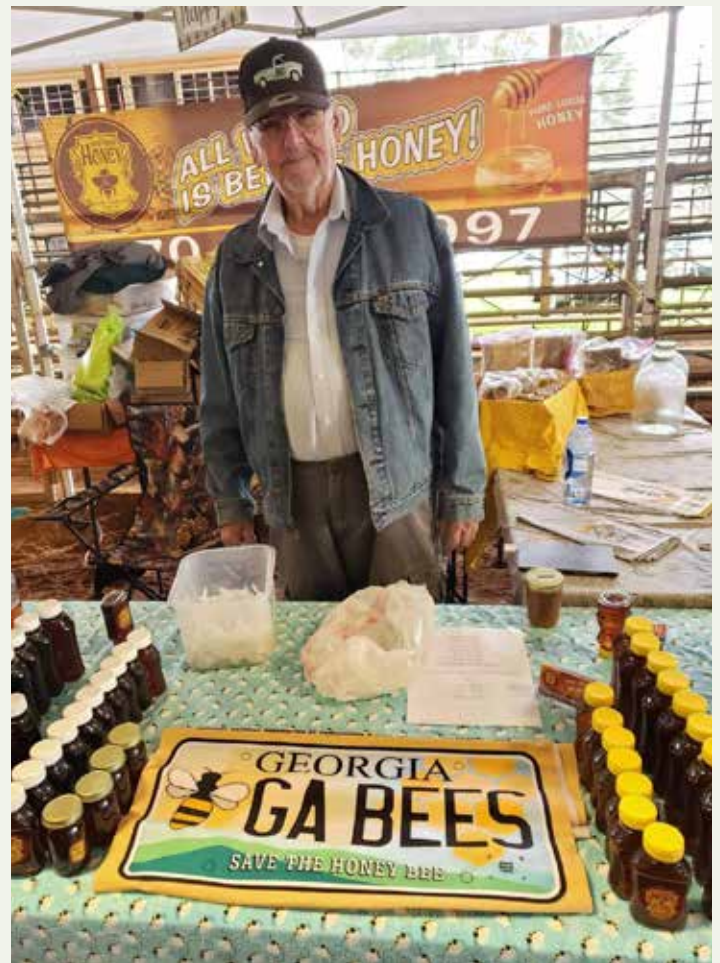
John Tackett, 84, died June 10, 2022 of pancreatic cancer. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Annie and son Joseph. Survivors include his daughters Judy Dawson and Janet Schnell, and son John R. Tackett, Jr., four grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren, along with his eight siblings and a host of nieces and nephews. He was buried in the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton with the Navy providing military honors.

John’s daughter Judy, with whom he lived the last several years of his life, said he had learned beekeeping as a youngster working alongside his father in Oklahoma and later in Washington state where he grew up with his eight siblings.

John lived for many years in Jacksonville, FL, where he served in the Navy. He was on each of the ships that picked up the Apollo 11 and the Apollo 12 astronauts. He retired from the navy in 1972. By 1975 he had moved to Canton, where he took up beekeeping again. He lived there until he died.

John was famous as a swarm catcher. Daughter Judy said he could find them anywhere. When he spotted one from his truck, he’d pull off the road to catch it. Curtin tells a story of catching a swarm with him that was clumped on the ground in tall grass.

Continued on next page



John Tackett at the Georgia Junkies event in Cartersville selling his hive products and displaying the GBA banner.

A REMEMBRANCE

JOHN TACKETT, BEEKEEPER

Continued from previous page

She was trying to scoop the massed bees up with her gloved hands when the swarm took off, including the queen. Chris panicked, but John said, “Don’t worry. I’ll get her.” He started flapping his hands in the air. Pretty soon, he batted the queen out of the air into the box. Then they watched all the bees march in behind her.

He was a founding member of the Beekeepers of Gilmer County, and was a member of several other clubs around north Georgia, including Jasper, Canton and Blairsville. Despite the long drive to Ellijay from his home in Canton, he served several terms as president. The Gilmer County club named its apiary after him, as well as giving him a lifetime achievement award. He was an indispensable resource for just about every member of the club. He often attended Georgia Beekeepers Association conferences.

Kelley Burns, another Gilmer club member, said John had “a minute to minute total love of life. He was all in for whatever was on his plate that day.”

“John had a depth of knowledge about bees, not just book learning, but hands-on, in-the-bee-yard knowledge,” said Curtin.

Mary Hawkins, another member of the Gilmer club, said, “But it wasn’t only bees that thrilled John. He loved his frequent fishing trips to Alaska.” His friends, family, and bee club members were the beneficiaries. He would cook halibut and salmon to share at our holiday gatherings.

The current president of Beekeepers of Gilmer County, Russell Evans, said, “John was the most enthusiastic and passionate beekeeper I have ever met.”

His “Georgia Mountain Honey” bottles were famous in Ellijay, where they appeared for sale in just about every small business and at many craft shows and fairs.

Mary Lou Blohm, who with John and Chris Curtin, founded the Gilmer club and later served as its president, said, “John never tired of talking about honey bees. He was full of stories and personal experiences and was generous in sharing his knowledge.”

Blohm, a relatively new beekeeper at the time, became passionate about the new club and did the work of composing bylaws, calling meetings, and establishing the apiary, while John did a lot of teaching and storytelling. Each year he brought queens and package bees from South Georgia where he kept dozens of hives. Beekeepers old and new were drawn to the club, which has grown and matured over the years. A few years ago, Gilmer County hosted a series of classes culminating in the certified beekeeper exam sanctioned by the University of Georgia. John taught a number of those classes.

“He will be missed,” said Blohm. Indeed.

(Thanks for much help with this article from Chris Curtin, Mary Hawkins, Kelley Burns and Mary Lou Blohm and the Beekeepers of Gilmer County.) 🍯

THE BIRDS OR THE BEES

by *Kathy Bourn*

Once you start looking for honey bees, you not only see them where you never noticed them before, but you also notice the activity of other pollinators. I have a building next to my garden that is a catch all. It is a garden shed, summer kitchen, storage building, honey house and chill out spot. It has a front porch that has a collection of items including bird houses. About a month ago, I noticed that one of the bird houses is now a bee house.

Several bumblebees come and go on a regular basis and they have created quite the cozy little dwelling. This from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust: “Inside a bumblebee nest will be a queen, who lays almost all of the eggs. Around her, she will have a number of worker bees, who help to look after the nest, collect food, and raise new offspring. Unlike the distinctive honey bee nest, which has tightly packed hexagonal cells for raising offspring and storing honey, the inside of the bumblebee nest can appear quite messy and disorganized”.

On hot days, I sometimes catch them fanning the entrance like our honey bees do. I also see a collection of males hanging around trying to get the attention of the queen. Bumble bees are annually social; their colonies die each winter, with only mated queens left behind to hibernate

in the soil or leaf litter. They will start new colonies of their own the following spring. If I leave their new house alone, perhaps a new queen may take a liking to it next year. I don’t know my bumblebees all that well, but they look like the *Bombus auricomus*, a species of bumblebee known by the common name black and gold bumblebee.

For more information on bumblebees, see: <https://gapp.org/pollinators/apidae> 🍯



The New Honey Revolution: Restoring the Health of Future Generations

Ron Fessenden

Book review by David Hinton

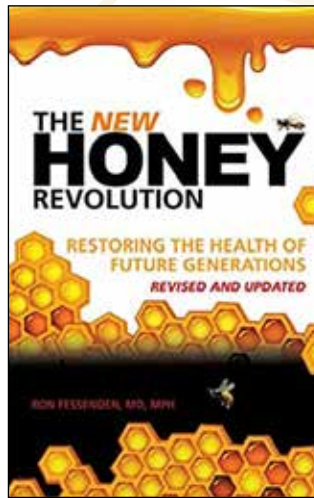
This is the first book that I've reviewed where I recommend that everyone buy a copy to keep at home. Why? If you've read many of my reviews, you know that I am a lifelong honey lover. I am a beekeeper for the love of honey, pure and simple. But except for the common folk wisdom that local honey is good for dealing with allergies, I've never been aware of the tremendous health advantages to be gained from eating honey. This book was an eye-opener for me. And, for those who commercially market honey, this book should give you some excellent ideas for marketing from the health angle.

The author, Ron Fessenden is a medical doctor (M.D.) and also has a Masters in public health. This book is his fourth in a series titled *The Honey Revolution*, hence the fourth edition's "New" in the title. As Dr. Fessenden writes in his Introduction to the book, "This book is about honey — a wonderful, miraculous, natural food. It is not a diet book. It is a book about how regular consumption of honey will reduce your risks for many diseases and medical conditions, help you sleep better, improve your immune system functions, and help you experience better health as you age."

Dr. Fessenden supplies overwhelming medical and scientific support for the claims he makes which I will allude to in this review but not attempt to repeat. The book isn't just medical explanations. Fessenden also supplies case studies from real people such as "Becky's Story" about a woman with a stressful job and chronic low blood sugar.

Here are some of the health benefits that Dr. Fessenden documents in his book (direct quotes):

1. Honey stabilizes (regulates and controls) blood sugar levels. In other words, honey lowers blood sugar as well as prevents low blood sugar.
2. Honey consumption results in a lower insulin response... thus delaying or preventing the development of insulin resistance.
3. Honey consumption reduces intracellular inflammation associated with diabetes and aging.
4. Honey consumption reduces metabolic stress thus reducing the risks for many of the diseases and conditions associated with the metabolic syndrome, including obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.



5. Daily honey consumption will lower triglyceride and cholesterol levels and increase HDL (good) cholesterol. The fructose in honey actually protects against triglyceride formation.
6. Honey consumption improves memory and cognitive ability by reducing the amount of cortisol released during metabolic stress.
7. Honey improves immune system functioning, which is how it helps alleviate allergy symptoms.
8. Honey consumption before bedtime promotes restorative sleep and improves sleep quality and duration. Restorative sleep reduces risk for hypertension and other metabolic conditions and diseases.

Number eight particularly intrigued my wife Dolly and me — that honey can be a natural sleeping pill? Dr. Fessenden devotes an entire chapter ("The Benefits of Honey for Sleep") on using honey to enhance sleep and debunks the popular thinking (shared by some medical professionals) "that because no physical activity occurs during sleep, sleep is a process that uses little or no energy." Fessenden argues the exact opposite, that the brain requires significant energy during sleep and "requires an adequate stock of glucose throughout the night."

The following paragraph indented and in bold at the end of his honey and sleep chapter could be used as a powerful marketing tool for selling honey:

"The simple strategy of consuming a tablespoon or two of honey before bedtime will provide an adequate supply of fuel reserve for the brain throughout the nighttime and ensure that sleep is restful and uninterrupted by metabolic stress."

While hardly scientific proof, my wife and I tried it and the results were positive. Again, I recommend that all beekeepers get this book and study its analyses and recommendations. 🍯

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Honey Tasting Holder

by Kathy Bourn

Setting up a honey tasting system, either for sample tasting or for a honey show, can be messy. Holli Kircher came up with a clever little honey holder that not only cuts down on the mess, but shows off her honey in the best light.

She took a 2 x 4 block of wood and drilled three holes in it that are just the right size to hold little plastic cups. These little sample cups have lids and the rim of the cup sits on top of the wood. This keeps the cup from tipping over and creating a honey headache.

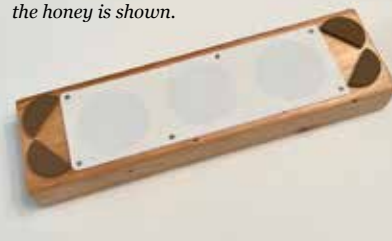
When asked what inspired this idea Holli said, "I like the cups because they are so easy to use but also wanted a more substantial and secure base for them to sit in. I saw people drill holes in wood to hold tea light displays and thought that the same idea might work great for the honey sample cups". She uses the holder as part of her honey selling display. It allows her customers to easily sample Holli's honey while keeping the stray bee away.

The clever part is that she attached a piece of white plastic to the bottom. She just cut it out of the plastic lid from an old container. The result is that no matter the color of the surface it sets on, the true color of the honey is shown. She tested it out at the new Hartwell Railroad Flea Market.

She stained and sealed it with some polyurethane so she can wipe honey off of it. Holli's honey holder even has anti-skid grips on the bottom. She also uses the little cups to put bite-sized cut comb in as a gift to people who buy her honey. 🍯



A white plastic bottom ensures the true color of the honey is shown.







It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.


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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

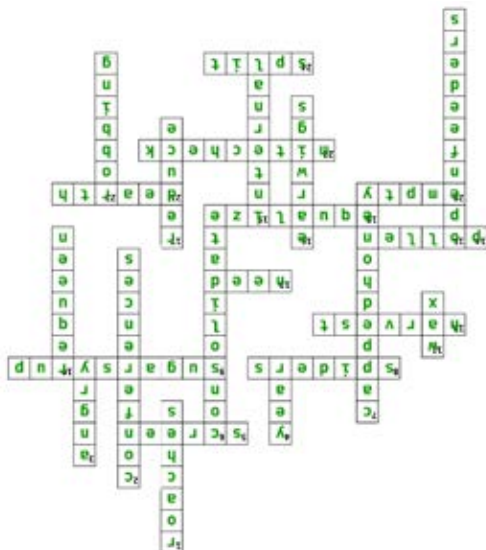
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



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! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

At our July meeting, UGA's **Dr Lewis Bartlett** spoke on the biology of *Varroa destructor* and its effects on the honey bee. He also talked about current and upcoming treatments and their efficacy against the mite. It was an evening of hard science and practical advice for beekeepers. During mentoring time before the meeting, **Dan Long** demonstrated the alcohol wash method for monitoring infestation levels. 🍯



Dr. Lewis Bartlett

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, July 19th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program consisted of a hamburger/hot dog cookout and our annual Swap Meet. Those in attendance discussed bees while club president **Jonathan Hayes** grilled. Due to the rain, the grill was pulled under the covering and unbeknownst to us, there was a smoke detector there. *The firefighters were very understanding and went back to the station with a couple of bottles of honey!* Our next meeting will be August 16th. The mentoring session begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org. 🍯

Henry County Beekeepers Association

The Ellenwood branch of the **Henry County Public Library** system has established a pollinator garden and asked the Henry County Beekeepers to provide a colony of honey bees. The bees will be put on the grounds of the garden to provide pollinator services. We will have a storyboard to explain various bee behaviors that people might observe. A fence will be erected to keep the public at a safe distance along with signs reading "Keep Out, Honey Bees At Work." Another sign notes that the bees are provided and maintained by HCBK. Inside the library, we will also post the dates and times of hive inspections so interested people can observe.

On May 20th, HCBK participated in the career day at **Stockbridge Elementary School**. Members of the club, **Carolyn and Clark Runion, Luther Walker, Howard Emory and Danny Harvey**, staffed a booth at the school (below). The kids were totally enthralled with the observation hive and had really great questions. 🍯



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	gabeesecretary@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
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

The SOWEGA Beekeepers Club hosted its **2nd Annual Kids' Bee Day** on Saturday, July 16th. After the Wee Bees Class, kids painted bees on canvas backpacks, planted bee-friendly flowers, colored bees on kites, and took pictures with Happy Bee at the photo booth. All the kids took home a bee-ology kit, gift bag with seed bombs and other bee-related goodies. A large toy basket was raffled off to one lucky winner. Drinks and snacks, including honey bee cupcakes, were served. Winner of the SBC T-Shirt Design Contest, Ms. Sims was presented with a \$25 gift card for her "Team Honey Bee" design. This event was made possible by grants from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and Georgia's Rural Center, sponsors, the SBC School Dean, Stan Okon and so many incredible volunteers. 🐝



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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Recreation Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 7pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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 p.m.				clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Sept. 13	Annual Honey Show	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	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	hybrid	Aug. 16	Sam Comfort, Anarchy Apiaries	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				-	Clinch
SOWEGA	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm		Aug. 11	"Pesticide Risk Related to Bees" – Elizabeth McCarty, Forest Health Specialist, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty 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 Association of 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	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)				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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle

August Beekeeping Challenges

You can also work
this month's
crossword "buzzle"
online at:

**crosswordlabs.
com/view/
august-beekeep-
ing-challenges**



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 15.

ACROSS:

- used to keep robber bees out
- These can also be found under the hive cover - watch out
- (two words no space) We feed this to the bees
- In August if there is excess honey on your hive, you can still do this. If you plan to treat, you must do this.
- You should only feed your hive if there is a _____
- Some beekeepers feed their bees this _____ substitute. If we do it in Georgia, we invite the small hive beetle to a banquet!
- You should do this if most of your colonies are really strong but one or two are weak
- If there is a box in this condition on your hive, it should be removed
- Means there is no nectar available for the bees
- (two words, no space) To determine if your hive has a problem you may need to treat, you should do this
- If there are still plenty of drones, you can do this really early in the month, but you should have done this in July.

DOWN:

- These can be found under the hive cover in August
- Good education can be gained by registering in August for one of these in the fall
- your bees are hungry in August and opening the hive typically makes them _____
- Bob Binnie among others considers August to be the beginning of the beekeeping _____
- name given to the process of removing empty supers from the hive to give the bees less space to protect.
- (two words, no space) Your hive needs enough of this to make it through the winter
- If you have a hive with particularly difficult bees, it is still not too late to do this.
- If robbing has occurred, and you use a screened bottom board, you'll see flakes of this all under the hive
- If you feed this way, put them far away from your hives to avoid invitation to robbing
- These strange insects are quite a sight, running around the top cover
- your entrances to avoid robbing
- Feeding in August should not be done with a Boardman feeder. Instead you should use an _____ feeder
- bees without honey attack your bees to steal their stores



Spilling *The* Honey

SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ur fall 2022 conference is fast approaching! The event will be held at Ramsey Conference Center, 2535 Lanier Tech Dr, Gainesville, GA 30507. An overview of our daily schedule looks like this:

- **Thursday, Sept. 22** – Board meeting, vendor set-up, honey show entries received
- **Friday, Sept. 23** – Conference, elections, honey show entries received, catered dinner
- **Saturday, Sept. 24** – Conference, announcement of honey show and election winners

For a complete schedule with speakers, talks, honey show entry times and president's breakfast info, **please go to our website**. On Friday night, we are going to enjoy a catered dinner with **Bobby Chaisson** as our guest speaker and **Eddie Gwaltney** will be playing keyboard again. **If you have not yet registered, click here.**

One of our talks, "How to Taste and Evaluate Honey: Matching Flowers to Flavors," which will be given by honey connoisseur **Marina Marchese**, is limited to 25 people per session. It is sold out, and has a healthy waiting list. If you are registered and cannot attend that session, please cancel within Wild Apricot to give another beekeeper an opportunity. Thank you for your consideration!

Inside this issue, please enjoy **Kathy Bourn's** very clever article about what it really means to have a SAVE THE HONEY BEE plate (**see page 3**). Also, we are getting excited to participate in the Georgia **Honey Bee Genome Project** (aka the 23andBee project). **Julia Mahood** explains in her **article on page 11**.

We are looking for a strong turnout for our honey show. For our newer members, please pay special attention to the **GBA Honey Show rules** when preparing your entries. Our judges follow the rules exactly. They can be found on **our website**.

We will be voting for two officers and three directors at this conference. In order to vote, you must **be a GBA member**, and you must use the email address and password associated with your membership in the Wild Apricot software. *Please find your password*. We will be voting electronically again using our phones or computers provided at the conference.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

PRO TIP



Many vendors will bring filled orders to the conference, saving you shipping costs. Call them now to order ahead of time.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!





Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

If not, what are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in well over \$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.** 🐝

YOUR GBA LPP COMMITTEE
Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman



WARNING

The **SAVE THE HONEY BEE** License Plate CAN BE DANGEROUS

by *Kathy Bourn*

The Georgia **SAVE THE HONEY BEE** license plate is wildly popular, but you should be aware of some of the dangers involved in having one on your vehicle. Even though it is the best looking plate on the road, it has some drawbacks.

For starters, it's a driving hazard. Whenever I see another bee plate on the road, I speed up and try to get next to that vehicle to see the driver. If it's someone I know, it's even more dangerous because I try to wave to them. I don't know how I'll explain it in the police report when I inevitably end up rear-ending someone!

Secondly, the bee plate forces you to do what your parents told you not to do – talk to strangers. If I see someone getting out of a car with a bee plate, I have an uncontrollable urge to stop them and find out if they're a beekeeper or a bee fan or if they just love the look of the plate. I grill them on why they chose the bee plate and on beekeeping in general. If I see that person secretly dialing 911 on their phone while I'm talking to them, I know I've gone too far.

Along those same lines, the bee plate encourages stalking. I was in the Lowe's parking lot loading up my supplies (to make more hives of course) when I noticed a man standing

in the next aisle over, just staring at my truck. At first I thought maybe I had a flat tire or that someone had hit my vehicle. Then he came toward me, and in a stern voice, asked me if my bee license plate was real. I probably told him more than he wanted to know about the plate and GBA and bees, but that's what he gets for stalking.

If you're willing to take the risk involved in having a **SAVE THE HONEY BEE** plate, just **go online at Georgia Drives** when you are ready to buy a new plate or renew your current plate. **Click here** to see a sample plate and get a breakdown of the cost.

Welcome to the danger zone! 🐝





2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

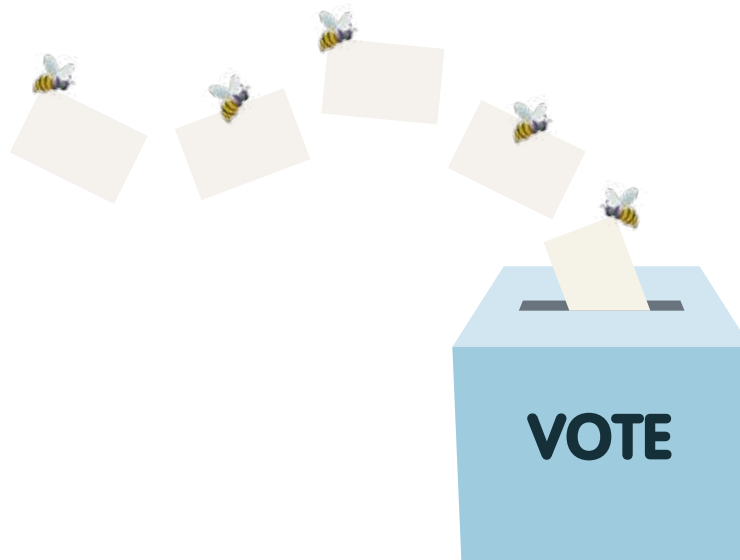
September 22 - 24

GBA 2022 Elections

At the fall GBA conference we will be voting for new officers and new directors. This year we elect a president and vice-president as well as three director positions. Bios of each of the candidates who have stepped up to serve **appear on the following page**.

There is a write-in option in each category. GBA does not create a slate - we ask instead for people to step up to run for offices. As you can see, many positions are running unopposed.

Next year (2023) we will be voting for secretary, treasurer and three director positions. Consider stepping up and running for office. *GBA thrives on volunteer energy!* 🐝



GBA 2022 Elections

Continued from previous page

PRESIDENT: GINA GALLUCCI

Gina has been GBA President since 2020 and is currently running for re-election. Gina served GBA as Vice-President from 2016-2020 and has worked on the conference planning committee, Save the Honey Bee license plate development and proceeds committees, Buzz Fund committee, helped with GBA's Spillin' The Honey newsletter, and overall operations for the organization. Her prior bee association experience includes serving as vice-president and president of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, working on MABA's annual Short Course, chairing the swarm committee and answering questions on the MABA hotline. Gina joined GBA in 2012 and served as GBA newsletter co-editor for four years. Gina has been learning about and loving bees since 2006. When not working bees, Gina enjoys sharing GBA business with friends, her family and dogs, travel, reading, and she is a long-time yoga practitioner. Gina pays for her bee hobby by managing her own heavy construction recruiting agency.

VICE PRESIDENT: DERRICK FOWLER

Derrick has been a beekeeper for ten years and generally keeps 15 to 20 colonies at his home in Jackson County. Sometimes he has a few more than that, but don't tell his wife, Kim. She never goes in the backyard. Thousands of stinging insects are a deterrent, but she's mostly worried about mosquitoes. Derrick is a member of Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers and the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett where he currently serves on the Board of Directors after previously having served as President for three years. He is a UGA Journeyman beekeeper and has served as a Director for GBA, GBA Secretary, and most recently GBA Vice President.

DIRECTOR, NORTHEAST REGION: BOBBY CHAISSON

Bobby has been keeping bees since 2007 and currently is the operations director for Georgia Bee Removal. His occupation allows him to work with bees full time and to travel the southeast removing bees from all kinds of structures. In 2021, he received his UGA Master Beekeeper certification. Bobby has a passion for helping new beekeepers get started on the right foot to become successful beekeepers, as well as assisting experienced beekeepers to grow and expand their skills. Bobby feels fortunate to have been part of many beekeeping short courses and to have presented programs to clubs all across Georgia.

DIRECTOR, CENTRAL REGION: BRUTZ ENGLISH

Brutz is a member of both the Potato Creek Beekeepers Club and the Henry County Beekeepers Association. He has been a GBA member since 2010, and has served on the GBA Board of Directors since 2012. Brutz is a UGA Master Beekeeper and a Senior Welsh Honey Judge. He has served on a number of GBA committees over the years, most notably the Honey Show, Legislative, and Meeting committees. He was named the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2017. Brutz serves on the faculty of the Young Harris College-UGA Beekeeping Institute, and is the Director for the Welsh Honey Judge training & certification program. Since Brutz joined GBA, he has watched it grow into one of the finest beekeeping organizations on the planet. He is very proud of his service to GBA and to the beekeeping community. Brutz is grateful that his beekeeping peers have allowed him to serve for so long, and he looks forward to carrying on the work of GBA in the future.

DIRECTOR, METRO ATLANTA REGION: JULIA MAHOOD

Julia is a Georgia Master Craftsman Beekeeper who has been keeping bees since 2004. She created the citizen science website **MapMyDCA.com** to gather data on drone congregation areas. Julia was awarded the GBA Beekeeper of the year in 2018. A graphic artist, she designed the Georgia "Save the Honey Bee" license plate. She is passionate about education and teaches beekeeping at Lee Arrendale State Prison. In addition, she coordinates testing and volunteers at other Georgia prisons. Julia is a past president of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association and has been on the GBA meeting committee for many years. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, 10 bee colonies, and seven chickens. She has two wonderful sons who have left the hive nest.

GBA Fall 2022 Election

Status: Open

General Access & settings

GBA Fall 2022 Election

The Board has voted to hold this election for the Fall Conference 2022 online through Wild Apricot. Your vote will be private and the results will be automatically counted by Wild Apricot. To vote, you must have paid your registration for the Fall Conference and must cast your ballot between 11 AM on September 23 and 11am on September 24. The results of the election will be announced at the end of lunch (12:45) on Saturday of the conference.

*Please vote for President of GBA

- Gina Gallucci
- Click "Other" below for a write in
- Other

*Please vote for Vice President of GBA

- Derrick Fowler
- Click "Other" below for a write in
- Other

*Please vote for GBA Director for the NORTHEAST REGION

- Bobby Chaisson
- Click "Other" below for a write in
- Other

*Please vote for GBA Director for the CENTRAL GEORGIA REGION

- BRUTZ ENGLISH
- Click "Other" below for a write in
- Other

*Please vote for GBA Director for the METRO ATLANTA REGION

- Julia Mahood
- Click "Other" below for a write in
- Other

Comments allowed



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

September 22 - 24

How to Make the Most of the GBA Fall Conference

By Linda Tillman

Imagining the many ways to enjoy the GBA Fall Conference is almost overwhelming...

You Could Come For The Shopping

The many vendors will be delighted to see you. I love to get a fun t-shirt or maybe a pair of bee earrings. Sometimes I get a new bee book to add to my already full bookcase. Oh, yes, and there is bee equipment available in every corner. As a matter of fact, if you order ahead of time, the vendor will bring it to you and save you shipping costs.

You Could Come For The Education

Dr. Sam Ramsey will be there with his high energy and enthusiasm for helping us all understand the varroa mite. All the keynote presenters speak twice, so you get to hear their wisdom on two topics. AND we have great breakouts with topics ranging from beginning beekeeper-focused to commercial beekeeping info. If you were lucky and registered early, maybe you are going to be part of the honey sommelier experience with **Marina Marchese**.

Continued on following page



Dr. Sam Ramsey



Marina Marchese

Photo Credit: Montee McMillan



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

September 22 - 24

Continued from previous page

You Could Come To See Your Friends

Often I see people at the conference who are not going to the talks but are hanging out in the halls, talking to friends and sharing bee stories, likely as not. And we have a great opportunity to register for the optional dinner on Friday night to share a meal with other beekeeping pals and to hear Bobby Chaisson tell tales about what he has learned in beekeeping. He's a great story teller and I can't wait to hear what he will share with those of us registered for the dinner. It's not too late - if you registered and didn't choose dinner, **you still can.**

You Could Come To Find Out What GBA Is Up To

The board meeting on Thursday at 4:30 is open to all members. You can come and hear the business of GBA, find out how the license plate funds are being spent (over \$110,000 a year is being generated and it's GBA's money). You can find out how you or your club can benefit from these funds at the board meeting. You can't vote unless you are a president, a director, or a voting member of the board, but you'll hear all the GBA goings on in detail. And if you don't make the board meeting, the GBA business meeting is on Saturday morning and you can hear all about GBA in a compact version then.

You Could Come To Vote

The GBA membership elects officers and directors at this meeting and you have a vote if your dues are paid (and if you are getting this newsletter, your dues ARE paid). I do remember one year when a member came just to vote. That was the only reason she attended the meeting. So exercise your right as a member, and come to vote.

You Could Come To Enter The Honey Show

This is the ultimate state honey show. And I'll bet your honey tastes better than any you've ever tasted before. Be brave! Enter. The judges may award you a blue ribbon or give you helpful feedback. If you don't have honey to enter, enter the wax categories with that beautiful candle you made last month. Or be even braver and pour a wax block entry.

As for me, I come for all of the above. I love every part of the GBA Fall Conference and can't wait to see all of you there.

To register for GBA's Fall Conference, **click here.** 



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

September 22 - 24

2022 GBA Honey & Beeswax Show

By Georgia P Zumwalt, GBA Secretary

It's time to prepare! Put aside your tastiest, prettiest jars of honey and render your beeswax now. Then, **click here to find out all you need to know about how to enter** all your BEE-utiful honey and wax items in this year's GBA Honey and Beeswax Show.

I can attest to the fact that entering a honey show is one of the best ways to learn how to make your product better – better tasting, better looking, and *better selling*. By competing, you stretch beyond the comfortable and improve your product... *and it's fun too!* There is nothing better than walking into the honey show display and seeing that gorgeous liquid gold in an array of colors that perfectly depict the many seasonal nectars. We can only have a true display of the golden gradients with *your* honey and beeswax. Be a part of this beautiful spectrum and show off what your honey bees have been up to this year.

What is the best way to win? Take Katie Goodman's advice: **“Read the rules, read the rules, then . . . READ THE RULES AGAIN.**

Here's another link to the rules (click here). Make sure to read them *carefully*. And, remember – you **MUST** be a **registered attendee of the conference** to enter the honey show, and you **MUST** be a **paid-up member of GBA**. Have fun and good luck.

To register for GBA's Fall Conference, **click here.** 



BEEES BEHIND BARS

By Amy W.

Amy W. is a Journeyman beekeeper at Lee Arrendale Women's prison and will be taking the Master Beekeeper certification test this month.

After recognizing the importance of pollination and the declining population of the honey bee, Lee Arrendale State Prison began its first beekeeping program in March of 2016. Two very dedicated volunteers, Julia Mahood, Master Craftsman Beekeeper, and Virginia Webb, Master beekeeper, commercial beekeeper, and four-time winner of the World Honey Show for her sourwood honey, worked very hard to get this program up and running. This program is a combined effort of several entities including the Georgia Department of Corrections, the UGA Master Beekeeper Program, and the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

In 2016, the first beekeeping class eagerly studied

the text "First Lessons in Beekeeping" by Dr. Keith Delaplane, put together and painted hives, installed six packages and harvested 100 pounds of honey! At the end of the season, UGA's Jennifer Berry came to administer the Certified test and all 15 students passed with flying colors.

The following year some of the Certified Beekeepers set their sights on reaching the Master Beekeeper level, which involved finding ways to earn the required Public Service Credits (five for Journeyman, then 10 for Master) while incarcerated. They formed the Honey Comb Club, the first beekeeping club established inside prison walls, and produced a monthly newsletter, *The Nectar Collector*. The newsletter was an instant hit with staff and inmates, educating everyone on the importance of honey bees and pollination while promoting the program. Those of us going for

Continued on next page



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Journeyman and Master have made presentations to non-beekeeping groups on the campus, and the experienced students taught and mentored the new students each year. The class library grew, adding texts needed for the advanced study levels, and *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal* magazines. Much of our library was generously funded by GBA license plate grants.

In October 2018, five students passed the Journeyman test, and eight students passed the Certified. We were the first prison program to have students reach the Journeyman level and *boy, were we excited*. The following year, Arrendale had the first two incarcerated Master Beekeepers in the country! Since 2016, we have had 40 women reach at least the Certified level at Arrendale.

The year 2020 was not without difficulties as the prison navigated Covid-19. We weren't able to access the bees much during the March lockdown, but beekeeping was the first program allowed to resume classes in June. We were able to test students that fall but only at the Certified level. Beekeeping offered many lessons that year, not the least of which was that life in the beehive goes on no matter what is going on with the humans. We were grateful to get back to the bees.

The Georgia Beekeepers Association has been an integral supporter of our program. Since 2017, Georgia prison programs have been able to compete against each other in a special section of the GBA Honey and Artisan Shows. Arrendale has won blue ribbons in many classes including extracted honey, art, beeswax blocks, and poetry. We have learned so much through preparing entries for these competitions and have really enjoyed trying new things and honing our skills. When we send our entries off with our volunteers, we can't wait until they get back the next week to see how our entries fared. At the fall honey show in 2021 we had a mountaintop moment when our cut comb honey was awarded the wax products Sweepstakes award for the whole show, not just the prison entries!

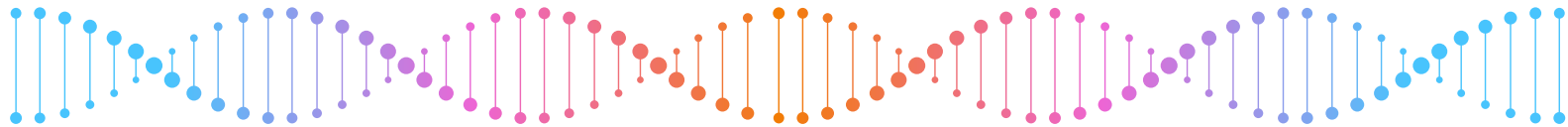
We have had many guests visit and lecture over the years, including Dr. Keith Delaplane, Jennifer Berry, Dr. Rachael Bonoan, Dr. Christine Fortuin, Linda Tillman, Shelli Godfrey, Cindy Hodges, Kelley Campbell, Kathleen Bourn, Olivia Menard and Willa Beth Smith. They have taught us everything from making herbal salves to providing first aid certifications for insect stings to making mason bee houses. Each guest instructor inspired us more than they can know and we so appreciated their time. Virginia Webb had to

step back as a regular instructor after the first two years, but we are always happy to see her when she comes to teach now and then. This summer, she taught us how to prepare chunk honey for entry in the honey show – our fingers are crossed!

Master Beekeeper David Hollomon joined Julia Mahood as a weekly teacher in 2018. Volunteering inside a prison is not always easy, but our volunteers are so dedicated to this program. They go above and beyond to make sure we have all the new information available from current research, teach us to use IPM and check our Varroa loads, and provide materials needed to study and achieve the requirements for the Master Beekeeper levels.

Beekeeping has meant more to me than you can possibly know. I am extremely grateful for the support of our volunteers and of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, who graciously supply our program needs. Whether it's equipment, knowledge, or belief in our program, it's all appreciated. 🐝





You Can Bee A Part of Helping Map The Genetic Diversity Of Georgia's Honey Bees

Your colonies can be a part of mapping the genetic diversity of Georgia's honey bees. Information from the study can help you manage your apiary using the honey bee genome.

In **last month's newsletter**,

Julia Mahood told us about a genome project that is connecting Georgia beekeepers with genetic studies at Purdue University's Bee Lab. This is a chance to find out how much genetic diversity is in your apiary. The subspecies (Italian, African, Russian or something else) of each colony participating can be determined. You can even find out about any mutations or predictive traits like varroa resistance. All of this can help you decide where you should buy your next colony to maximize genetic diversity.



Read Julia's full article on page 8 of our August edition for all the details on how you can make your bees' genetics part of your improved beekeeping. 🍯



Pollinator Census Jr.

This year's annual **Great Georgia Pollinator Census** (held Aug. 19th and 20th) provided a great opportunity for students at Mason Elementary in Duluth to make sure the bees and butterflies in their garden got counted! The census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. **This video** shows UGA certified beekeeper **Angela Wilbanks** and UGA Extension's **Kim Fritz** teaching the children about honey bees and how to take the census.



A grant awarded from the **Save the Honey Bee License Plate** Fund allowed Angela to purchase the observation hive (shown at right) and teaching hive she uses to promote pollinator conservation. 🍯



Plants for Bees: Tall Ironweed



by **Kathy Bourn**

When fall comes to Georgia, beekeepers start looking for the staples of our fall honey flow: goldenrod and asters. But our bees can take advantage of other native wildflowers, too.

In my garden, right next to my bees' watering hole, I spotted a plant with pollinators all over it that I had never noticed before. The plant, Tall Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), is, in fact, very tall with big leaves and a gorgeous purple flower. This plant was a volunteer in my garden, and if I were more diligent at weeding, I probably would have killed it before it flowered.

Ironweed is part of the daisy family, so, like daisies, the flowers are made up of multiple small florets. The vibrant color makes it attractive for cut flowers, but if left on the stem, your pollinators will thank you for this late summer treat.

As Terry Johnson with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources explains, "Bouquets of purple flowers adorn these lofty giants of the plant world. A single plant can bear hundreds of flowers up to an inch wide in compact heads that can measure up to six inches wide. As many as 30 individual blooms can be found in a single flower head. These spectacular blossoms begin appearing in mid-summer and

can be spotted into the fall."

Ironweed can reach three to seven feet tall and can grow under various conditions. Because of this, you can spot ironweed in sun or shade and along streams or open fields.

In the past it was often overlooked as a landscape plant, but now ironweed cultivars are marketed to the home gardener. The introduction of new compact hybrid cultivars, such as Southern Cross, Summer's Surrender, and Summer's Swan Song have created excitement for the home gardener.

The colorful blossoms draw in bees, butterflies and other native pollinators with their production of both nectar and pollen. The large spear-shaped leaves are also attractive.

The seed heads of ironweed will turn a rust color and this color is thought to be the reason for the name. This bee plant does not require a lot of care but is a challenge to grow from seed because germination is low and the seeds require three months of stratification in cold temperatures.

Another major advantage of ironweed is that the bitter foliage is not tasty to the deer and rabbits. Happily, the bad taste doesn't bother our pollinators! 🐝



Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture

Ross Conrad

Book review by **David Hinton**

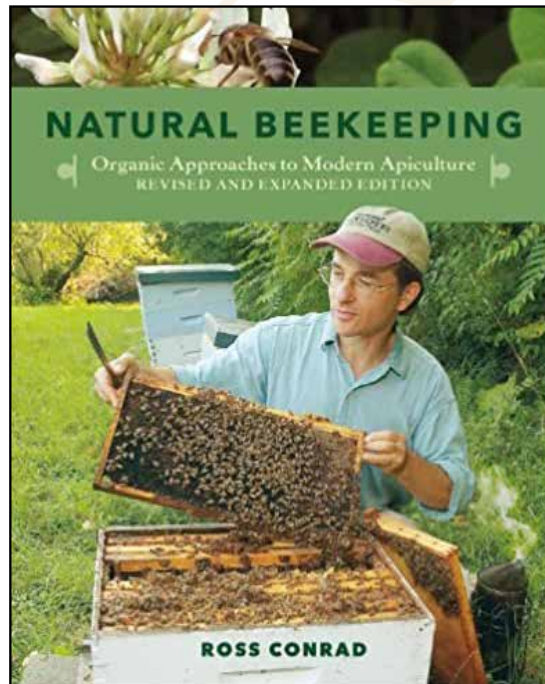
When Ross Conrad first published “Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture” in 2007, he emerged as an articulate spokesperson for an approach to beekeeping that resonated with a large number of people. He has since revised and expanded the book, in ways that reflect his flexible and non-dogmatic approach to beekeeping.

In his opening chapter, “Why Organic Beekeeping,” Conrad makes the case for his approach and also tries to explain just what he means by “natural” or “organic” beekeeping. Somewhat surprisingly, he declares that “Despite widespread belief to the contrary, the term does not mean that the final crop or product is free from toxic chemical contaminants.” To the contrary, “...the final products of conventional and organic production may not be all that dissimilar in terms of their chemical composition.”

While the difference might not be great in the result, there is a great difference in method. Conrad observes, “At its inception, the organic approach traditionally referred to a management style and philosophy that is biological in nature... Although it was certainly possible that organic management practices would result in a cleaner product, that was not the primary focus. Instead, organic management sought to mimic the natural world in its efforts to be sustainable, with the ability to be carried on indefinitely, as nature has proven herself to be.”

What Conrad advocates is the avoidance of what cannot be found in nature. That means no plastic hive bodies and no plastic foundation, for example. It means passing on commercial bee pollen substitute patties to boost brood in late winter/early spring. “If protein supplementation is required,” he writes, “the natural approach, in keeping with the honey bee’s biology, is to mix powdered pollen with just enough honey so that it forms a dough.”

The book definitely condemns the use of hard chemicals in the hive such as those used in the early days of the varroa infestation. But he is not anti-treatment and the book recommends many mite treatments that use commercial



products based on natural substances. He softened his views because “Then came published research indicating that thymol, a component of thyme oil found in some foods and considered safe for humans, is extremely deadly to varroa, but not to bees or people.” Thymol is the key ingredient for such widely used products as Apiguard and Apivar, which he discusses.

Conrad also deals with acids as a means to control varroa. “In general, the use of acid to control varroa is ideal because it is corrosive but not toxic, and it does not bioaccumulate in honey or wax, thus avoiding contamination issues.” He then adds what I found to be a rather surprising and reassuring fact that “Several acids, such as formic, oxalic, and

lactic (which is utilized in human metabolism), are all found naturally in honey.” The book then launches into a detailed explanation of how to treat hives with formic or oxalic acids.

“Natural Beekeeping” is actually a very good guidebook for beginning beekeepers, but more advanced beekeepers will find it interesting as well. A glance at the chapter titles reveals the book’s scope: working with the hive, hive management, genetics and breeding, parasitic mites, insect pests, four-legged and feathered pests, environmental and human threats, hive diseases, the honey harvest, marketing products from the hive, and finally, organics and the evolution of beekeeping.

As I stated in the beginning, Conrad is flexible and non-dogmatic. So even the most scientific-oriented beekeepers will be comfortable reading the book. 🍯

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.






It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.


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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...  We need your info!

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

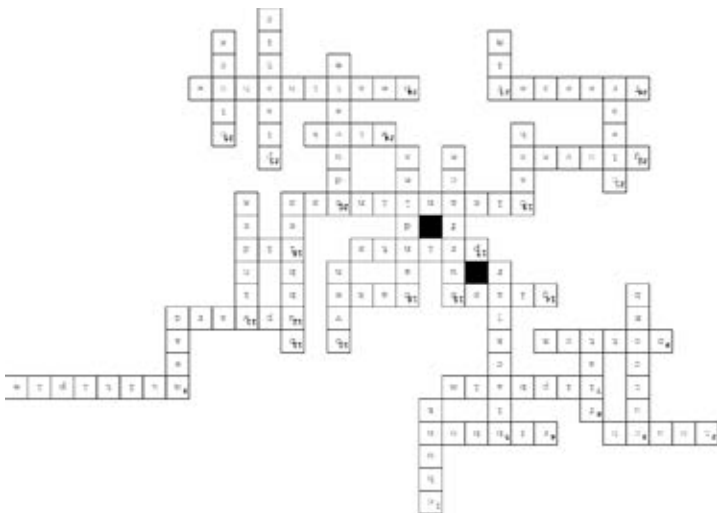
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



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! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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 Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, August 16th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program was presented by **Anita Curry**. Anita attended the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) conference in Ithaca, NY earlier in the month and she shared some of her experiences with our members. It was very interesting to hear about the latest beekeeping research.

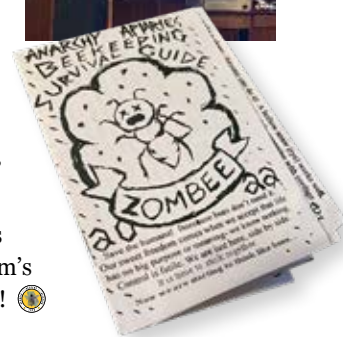


Our next meeting is September 20th. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At its August 16th meeting, MABA had the pleasure of welcoming **Sam Comfort**.

An entertaining and informative speaker, Comfort reminisced about his journey as a beekeeper leading to his eventual founding of **Anarchy Apiaries**. The name is apt, as Comfort has forged an unconventional way of practicing beekeeping. Comfort, whose business now focuses largely on queen rearing, detailed some of his self-styled practices and showed off one of his DIY, modified Warre hives (a.k.a., the "Comfort" hive) comprised largely from scrap wood. MABA members went home inspired by his energy and enthusiasm, and with one of Sam's "Beekeeping Survival Guide" 'zines in hand!



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Each year, the **Hart County School System** organizes a day to celebrate, educate and entertain county residents about agriculture. Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association was excited to participate in their annual Ag Day on August 20 and inform attendees about our favorite insect, the honey bee.

LHBA members volunteered to display products from the hive, demonstrate beekeeping equipment, and introduce everyone to the live honey bees in our observation hive. Honey tasting and a video on how to inspect a colony drew a crowd. Thanks to **Holli Kircher, Drew Harvey, Kathleen Bourn, Jonathon McCraney, Steve Jones, and Kevin McCraney** for showcasing our club and the honey bees!

Ag Day also included farm equipment displays, technology advances at a local dairy farm, Georgia Power and Hart EMC safety demonstrations, and a variety of farm animals.



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

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association

The Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association has been as busy as our bees this past year! After having almost all of 2020 go by without being able to meet, we've since made up for it by having a jam-packed year of learning and growing. We emerged from the pandemic with a four-day series of classes for new beekeepers in



2021, and thanks to a grant from the GBA's "Save the Honey Bee" license plate fund, we held an outstanding **Introduction to Beekeeping Class** in 2022, which included a separate day in the field

getting some hands-on instruction. A partial list of what we've done and learned since we "came back" includes:

Activities - Black Jar Honey Contest & Honey Bee Trivia, Field Trip to Blue Ridge Honey Company, Honey Bee Jamboree, Christmas in November, and a Honey Extraction Demonstration.

Classes - Observation Hives, Oxalic Vaporization, What to Plant For Bees, Raising Queens, Horizontal Hives, Varroa Treatment Options, and more!

We want to thank everyone who helped us come back stronger than ever, especially our instructors: **Mike Dayton, Virginia Webb, Julia Mahood, Bob Binnie, Jennifer Berry, Katie Goodman, Bobby Chaisson, Dan Long, Harold Lanier, Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Jimmy Gatt, Kathleen Bourn, and Keith Fielder.**

Our August meeting was a little unusual. Momentarily displaced to a new meeting location and missing the keys for the building, we settled down on picnic tables and tailgates in the parking lot of Habersham's Ag Extension Office. The incredible **Julia Mahood** stood before us with a makeshift cardboard podium under the eaves

to keep her laptop safe from the occasional drizzle.

Before launching into her "Game of Drones" presentation, she offered the group the opportunity to participate in a citizen science project to help map the genome of our bees (see details on **page 11**).

Then, she fought for the sake of drones and their importance to the hive. This included intriguing information on how the drones are physically built to be ideal for mating, how and where they fly, and their heightened sense of sight and smell. She emphasized the importance of giving the hive room to raise drones. She closed with her work on studying and mapping drone congregation areas (DCAs) with mechanical drones (UAVs). With the simple use of a string, queen pheromone laced lures, and UAVs, Julia Mahood has discovered that DCAs do not only exist in open spaces as previously thought.

Julia connected us to mapmydca.com, a website she created to allow any beekeeper to find the drone congregation areas around their bees. Though she worked with an unusual set up, Julia did not fail to give us a better appreciation for drones. 🐝



NE Georgia Mountain Beekeepers enjoying their field trip to Blue Ridge Honey Company

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	gabeesecretary@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
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm		Sept. 12	Cooking with Honey PotLuck – Bring a side or dessert made with honey to share!	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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				aron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Elijah Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm		Sept. 12		Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm		Sept. 15	Dr. Lewis Bartlett on the latest research from UGA	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 p.m.				clarkshillbeekeepers@gmail.com	Columbia
Coastal Empire Beekeepers	Oatland Island Wildlife Center 711 Sandtown Rd, Savannah, GA 31410	2nd Monday, 6:30pm		Sept. 12	Karen Palmer of Honey Please will provide information about current GBA activities.	CEBA.OIWC@gmail.com	Chatham
Coweta Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm			Kiwanis Coweta County Fair and Honey Show September 15th- 25th	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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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		Oct. 3	A Year in the Bee Yard – Bob Binnie, Blue Ridge Honey Company	etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Sept. 22	Annual Honey Show	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Sept. 20		heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Sept. 13	Annual Honey Show	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](#)).

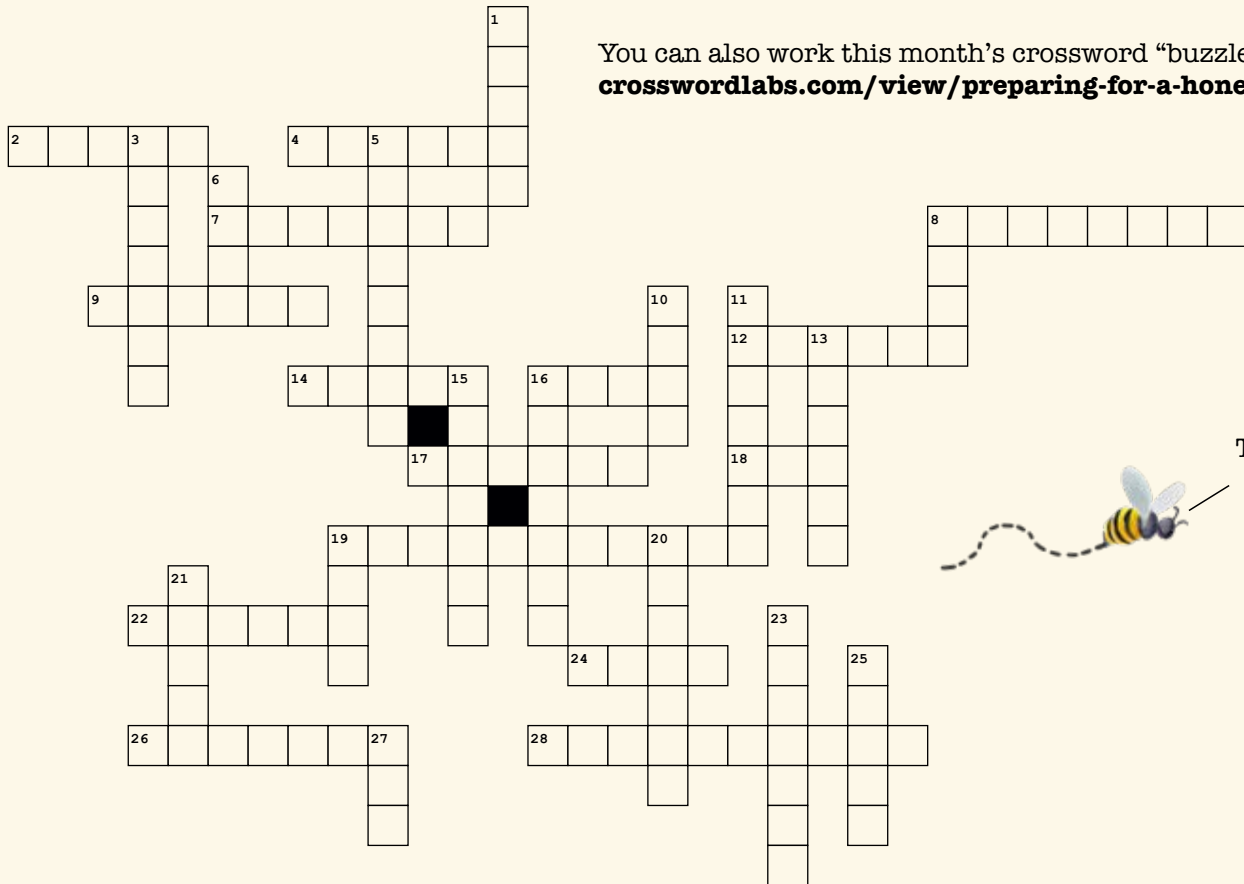
Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm		Sept. 1	Summer/Early Fall Feeding – Bob Binnie, Blue Ridge Honey Company	lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm				info@littliverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Sept. 18	MABA Potluck Picnic and Honey Show, 4 - 8 p.m. at The Galloway School 215 Chastain Park Ave NW, Atlanta, GA To RSVP click here. <i>(No regular meeting this month.)</i>	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm		Sept. 15	Honey Show Preparation and Rules – Brutz English	potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm		Sept. 1	Movie Night with Bee-themed TED Talks	monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm		Sept. 6	Bad Beekeeping – Kirby Swenson	threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Sept. 12	Preparing Your Bees for Winter – Olivia Menard	info@tricountybeekeepers.net	Hall
Tri-State Beekeepers	UGA Extension Office 114 Pace Dr Trenton, GA 30752	3rd Monday, 7pm				tristatebeekeepers1@gmail.com	Dade
Troup County Association of Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association	Ware County Library 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)		Sept. 15		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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle



Preparing for a Honey Show



You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at:
crosswordlabs.com/view/preparing-for-a-honey-show

Stumped?
 The answer
 key is on
page 14.



ACROSS:

2. Fingers should not do this to a finished honey jar ready for the show
4. Entrants would like to receive one of these of any color
7. Many beekeepers use their wax for these small purse or pocket items
8. In a honey show most categories require not one bottle of honey but _____ bottles
9. Even this part of your honey jar should be clean
12. the honeycomb cells in a chunk comb entry must be facing this direction to win a ribbon
14. To avoid wavy lines on a cooling wax block, cover the pan with a sheet of this
16. Many honey shows have a category for this with a standard recipe everyone must follow
17. Judges count off mightily if they find these on the jar
18. If the judges find honey on this top part, you are in deep trouble
19. This is more important than the taste of your honey
22. What you should wear when cleaning up your honey entries before turning them in
24. This should be centered in a candle entry
26. To keep cut comb from bleeding, place the blocks here for at least 24 hours
28. (3 words together) the ribbon most coveted

DOWN:

1. Honeycomb in a jar with clear honey around it
3. A type of honey entry in usually a 4" box
5. In this honey show entry, all that counts is the taste
6. The bottom of any candle must have this characteristic
8. This entry in the honey show may make the judges slur their words
10. The best place to cool a wax block for the smoothest, uninterrupted result
11. Some people remove these by driving their jars around in a hot car
13. Never use this on your honey jars
15. To clean this aspect of your honey at the honey show, some recommend using a silver demitasse spoon
16. These items are a way to use the honey comb after harvest
19. Many honey shows offer this in addition to a ribbon to a winner.
20. The purpose of preparing a honey show entry (besides winning ribbons) is to _____ yourself about proper preparation of our products
21. honey should be translucent and _____
23. Some honey shows allow honey to be entered in jars made of this but most require glass
25. entering wax in this form is one of the hardest categories in the honey show
27. fill line for queen line jars. Be sure to know what your honey show rules require



Spilling The Honey

OCTOBER 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope you enjoyed our fall 2022 GBA conference! The event featured world-class speakers, product vendors, a honey and wax show, and a great chance to visit with beekeeping friends from across the state. We tried to present talks for both new and long-time beekeepers, and make every minute of it enjoyable.

The GBA team does a tremendous amount of work putting on our conferences. There are hours of committee calls, emails and texts to arrange for speakers, set the program, and confirm – *and reconfirm* – everything. We always find something to improve upon for the next conference. Bob Binnie told me that GBA used to have conferences, but now we have *events*.

As always, a team of dedicated volunteers works behind the scenes to make these events happen. The high quality of this fall's event is largely thanks to **Linda Tillman** and **Julia Mahood**, who have worked for years to raise the standards and expectations for every conference GBA presents.

I am grateful to **Derrick Fowler** who walked the Ramsey Conference Center, arranged for food and drinks and a million other details. He knew exactly when and where help was needed. **Bobby Chaisson** was our man on the ground, giving us the latest legislative and local club management practices, setting up his bee colonies, and helping to lead the registration, along with organizing the election process. **Katie Goodman** arranged and developed a new vendor and led a team that created a new sourwood recipe for our traditional honey ice cream that you all enjoyed at the final break.

Jonathan Hayes had our website up to date before and during registration and worked tirelessly at registration. Emily Heath staffed the registration desk alongside Jonathan. Jonathan also helped with all the audio visual needs throughout the conference. **Luke Ellerman** handled all our finances and **Georgia Zumwalt** sent emails to the members. Our newsletter team of **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich** kept the conference well-advertised and Peter's graphics were used in our printed program and in *Bee Culture*. **Teri Myers**, along with **Ann and Butch Shelton** spent all day on Thursday setting up the registration desk, gift bags and signage.

Brutz English managed the honey and wax show and made sure we didn't miss anything at our business or board meeting. Thanks also to the honey judges: **Mary Cahill-Roberts**, **Nancy Simpson**, **Pamela Carter** and **Gail Dean**. **Katie Goodman** was honey and beeswax show secretary.

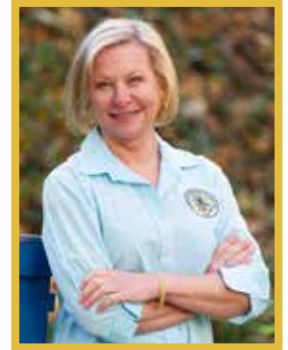
Monica Sheppard stepped in to substitute as GBA secretary and kept our minutes. **Kathy Bourn** organized the raffle while **Molly McGill** of Blue Ridge Honey Co. assisted Derrick with donations for the raffles. **Karen Palmer** sold GBA swag and made goody bags for the speakers. **Eddie Gwaltney** played beautiful music throughout the breaks. Please forgive any omissions. Thank you to all who offered to help before, during and after the conference.

I heard many compliments and thanks for this great event, especially from our guest speakers. To all I replied, it is a large and devoted team who make GBA run! My admiration only grows toward all of you who created this marvelous conference.

You reelected **Derrick Fowler**, **Bobby Chaisson**, **Brutz English** and myself, and **Julia Mahood** is now a new Director. Julia will take the place of the team of **Kelley Campbell** and **Mike Conner**. Thanks to Kelley and Mike for their service as co-directors.

Your volunteer support of GBA does not go unnoticed. Please, enjoy the sights of our fall conference in this edition of *Spilling the Honey*. We look forward to seeing you for our spring conference on February 18, 2023 in Macon, GA.

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

For complete
2022 Fall
Conference and
Honey Show
coverage, see
page 5.





Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

If not, what are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in well over \$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.** 🍯

YOUR GBA LPP COMMITTEE
Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman



🐝 Plants for Bees 🐝

If you're thinking about planting trees this fall, don't forget to consider your bees. Here are a few suggestions from author **Jimmy Gatt** for trees you can grow that will provide more food for your bees than acres of flowers.

Chinese Chestnut

(Castanea mollissima)

This is a large tree that originates from China. It likes full sun. Chestnut honey can be medium amber to very dark, and will often be less sweet, more complex, and even tannic. If you have customers who prefer honey that is less sweet and complex, then this tree is a good bet. Chestnut trees will also grow spiky pericarps that surround the nuts, and then dump them everywhere once the nuts mature. This tree will grow to 60 feet tall, so make sure you have the room to plant it.



Chaste tree

(Vitex agnus-castus)

Kill your “crap myrtle” tree and replace it with Chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*). Chaste tree is a small tree, about 15 feet tall, and comes from the Mediterranean. It likes full sun to partial shade, and it is reported to require pruning if you want it to look “pretty.” There is a similar tree, *vitex negundo*, that is good for bumble bees, but is not reported to attract honey bees. This tree will bloom in June with light purple flowers.



Seven Son Flower

(Heptacodium miconioides)

Or, kill your “crap myrtle” tree and replace it with Seven Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*). Seven son flower is actually in the honeysuckle family. It's a large shrub or a small tree, and it comes from China. It will grow to maybe 15 feet tall. It will bloom in the shade, but the more sun you give it, the more flowers it will have. This is a tree that blooms in the fall, so if you would like to give your bees an alternative nectar source to goldenrod and asters, then this tree is a good candidate.



American Chestnut

(Castanea dentata)

The O.G. dearth-slaying tree on our continent, sadly, was almost wiped out by the chestnut blight. If you have the land and would like to participate in a noble effort to return these trees to our landscape, visit the American Chestnut Cooperators' Foundation (<https://accf-online.org>). There was a time when it was said that a “squirrel could walk from New England to Georgia solely on the branches of chestnut trees.” If that were still the case, then we would not have a summer dearth. A transgenic tree engineered by The Chestnut Foundation and dubbed “Darling 58” is shown to be blight-resistant, yet some people feel nervous about a genetically-modified tree in our environment.



Bee-bee Tree

(Tetradium daniellii)

This medium-sized tree will grow to about 40 feet, and originates from Korea. It likes full sun and is reported to start blooming in five years. This tree has an almost cult-like popularity among some beekeepers and is also super popular with deer. The leaves smell gross if you rub them with your fingers, so don't hug this tree too much. This exotic tree has the potential to become invasive, but is not listed as invasive in Georgia. It blooms in July, in the heart of the summer dearth. 🐝



Beekeeping At Metro Area Schools Is Supported By The Hodges Scholarship

By **Deb DeWitt**, Committee Chair, Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship, MABA

In Maynard Jackson High School's rooftop organic garden, known as Jackson Park Farm, honey bees are buzzing away, getting ready for winter. Their hives, installed in March of 2020 on the day Atlanta Public Schools (APS) shut down for COVID, have thrived and multiplied—and have helped teach the garden club students about sustainability, biodiversity, and the importance of honey bees in food production.

The Maynard Jackson bees were provided by the Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship. This scholarship is funded annually by Metro Atlanta Beekeepers in honor of Cindy Hodges. The mission of the scholarship is to promote beekeeping to school-aged children (K-12) by establishing apiaries on school campuses.

The Maynard Jackson students witnessed first-hand that by caring for the bees, the bees in turn took care of them. During the 17-month COVID shutdown, students regularly sold the produce they harvested to award-winning Atlanta chef Kevin Gillespie's Red Beard Foundation, which used their produce along with other urban gardens, to provide over 1000 healthy meals per week to APS families within the Jackson cluster near downtown Atlanta.

A few miles away in historic West End, Herman J Russell West End supplemented their agSTEM program this spring by installing two packages of bees along with a new raised bed garden, so their middle school students can learn more about the natural world and caring for their environment. Again, this was made possible by the Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship.

In Sandy Springs, students at Brandon Hall School's campus homestead on the Chattahoochee River are practicing holistic sustainability, permaculture, healthy and sustainable eating, and citizen science. The bees installed this spring accompany new organic garden beds, a greenhouse, and chickens. Working with a Master Gardener, the students selected and planted basswood trees and other native pollinator plants to provide forage for the bees.

And not far away, Marietta Center of Academic Excellence, a STEAM school for grades 3-5, has also installed two colonies as a companion to their pollinator garden. Their focus is on environmental stewardship education with classroom and extracurricular activities involving gardening, beekeeping, and water conservation.

All of these schools have benefited from the Hodges Scholarship program. The namesake of the scholarship, Cindy Hodges, is a well-known person in Georgia beekeeping circles. Cindy developed and implemented MABA's Junior Beekeeping Program and has long been committed to education and excellence in beekeeping. She is a 2017 UGA Master Craftsman beekeeper, a senior Welsh Honey Judge, founder of the Dunwoody Beekeepers Club, past president of MABA, past board member of GBA, and 2012 GBA Beekeeper of the Year.

MABA is committed to educating new generations of beekeepers and is currently accepting applications for Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship. Any school or civic organization may apply. The deadline for applications is November 15, and the scholarship will be awarded no later than December 15. **Here is a link for more information.** 🌻





2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP



2022 GBA Fall Conference

Snapshot

What a great gathering of beekeepers at the Ramsey Conference Center! The newly wrapped **GBA trailer** greeted us all as we arrived, a delightful celebration of GBA and our *Save the Honey Bee* license plate.

The conference brought educational opportunities, as we heard **Dr. Mohammed Alburaki** speak about putting little markers on tiny bees to learn more about them. **Dr. Sammy Ramsey** wowed the crowd with his ability to explain science to those of us who aren't research scientists. He walked us through his steps to find out what the varroa mite feeds on and had some unbelievable photos. **Melanie Kirby** talked to us about her queen rearing journey and how the bees impacted her decisions. **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** brought his humor and engaging personality to help us learn even more about bees and nutrition. *And that was just a tiny part of how much we learned there!*

On Friday night, those of us who registered for the dinner heard from **Bobby Chaisson**, who, often overcome with emotion, talked about the many ways people have affected him in his beekeeping life. He was both funny and generous in his description of his many connections.

As a special treat **Marina Marchese** offered a Saturday course in how to taste honey. Equipped with little tasting/smelling kits, we experienced umami, bitter, sweet, sour and salty. And we learned to describe honey using words like vegetal, funky, earthy as well as fruity, smoky, or "like how my Grandma smelled."

The **honey and wax show** was glorious both in the number and quality of the entries but also in the impressive display of golden jars against the window of the honey show room. **Julia Mahood** won Best in Show for her pumpkin spice flavored creamed honey.

And then there was the **sourwood swirl honey ice cream** for the Saturday afternoon break. **Dan Long**, the 2022 Beekeeper of the Year, contributed his sourwood honey as did **Katie Goodman** and **Bobby Thanephon**. The end result was a delectable concoction that truly reflected the joys of Georgia honey.

Dr. Ramsey gave the last talk of the conference with a serious look at diversity in beekeeping. While he talked about the importance of diversity in keeping bees, his most important point was about how hard it is for minorities to gain a foothold in academic research and in beekeeping in general. His well-delivered message earned him a standing ovation and left us all with some hard things to think about as we try to encourage beekeeping for everyone.

The **vendors** lined the halls and many of us went shopping more than once! The **breakout talks** addressed everything from individual beekeeping issues to commercial beekeeping. You could even go through a hive with **Bobby Chaisson**. We ended the day with **raffle winners** carrying out their prizes and driving back to their homes.

Can't wait until Macon and the February conference! Meanwhile, enjoy **Kathy Bourn's** wonderful photographic record of the fun we all had. 🐝

See more photos on the following two pages. >>



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP



1. Julia Mahood catches up with Harold Lanier and other conference attendees. 2. UGA's Dr. Lewis Bartlett speaks on The Science Behind Linking Queen Health, Pesticide Exposure, And Nutrition. 3. Dr. Samuel Ramsey, Professor of Entomology at Colorado University-Boulder. 4. Dinner speaker Bobby Chaisson. 5. Guest speaker Melanie Kirby speaks on the origins of Apis m. and what that means for today's American bee breeding efforts. 6. Victor Halbgewachs speaks on the life and times of being a commercial beekeeper. 7. International honey expert Marina Marchese. 8. "Matching Flowers to Flavors" Seminar attendees learn how to taste and evaluate honey.



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP



1. Raffle prizes await their lucky winners. 2. Master beekeeper David Hollomon discusses how to make magnetic hive tool holders. 3. Bob Binnie reviews the conference schedule over lunch. 4. Eddie Gwaltney plays the piano. 5. Jim Ellis and Dave Miller discuss beetle traps. 6. Attendees had time to socialize over lunch. 7. Master beekeeper Paul Berry leads a break-out session aimed at second year beekeepers. 8. The vendor area was busy with all manner of bee-themed products for sale.



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP



2022 GBA Beekeeper of the Year: Dan Long

Dan Long has been keeping bees since 1996. A master beekeeper and the current president of the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association, Dan is always ready to share his wealth of beekeeping knowledge and experience with others. His remarkable work helping to bring about the resurgence of the Eastern Piedmont club is a testament to his leadership abilities. The club had been floundering for several years, when Dan took the reins as president, not only saving the club from disaster but turning it into a thriving and growing club. His leadership style is based on planning, preparing, communicating, hosting, and cheerleading.


Dan works closely with the University of Georgia Oconee County Extension and helped to add beehives to their community garden. He collaborates with other bee clubs in the Northeast Georgia Region to host multi-club events. And after much work, he has established a community honey extraction facility.

Dan is a popular speaker at GBA Conferences and the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, and is always willing to speak to bee clubs beyond his own. Dan has stimulated interest in observation hives and bee hunting. He does everything professionally and involves and engages others. He is also able to laugh at himself and knows there is more than one way to keep bees and work with beekeepers.

Dan is quick to identify a problem but the last to offer a solution as he has a way of asking and encouraging others to solve issues first. He has an abundance of patience, a great sense of humor and rarely takes no for an answer. He makes his resources and home a place where beekeepers can gather to learn or build a project. Dan organized club members to design, build a bee-themed float for the annual Downtown Parade of Lights in Athens, after which they were awarded "Most Original Float."

Dan promotes beekeeping in Georgia despite having a full-time plant propagation business to run. He has given up time to volunteer not only at the state level to promote the bee license plate, but locally as well, placing observation hives in schools, and at the Sandy Creek Nature Center, along with hands-on beekeeping demonstrations with kids.

One nominator wrote: "He invited me to a local hive inspection and his ability to teach at the level of the people present was great. He gave wonderful explanations and shared his enthusiasm for these amazing creatures. In that one inspection I was hooked! Thanks to Dan, I am now a beekeeper. I have so much to learn but I am confident that I have the support of a great community of people, a community that I have become a part of thanks to Dan!"

Congratulations, Dan, our GBA 2022 Beekeeper of the Year. 



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP

Jake's

ICE CREAM



2022 GBA Fall Conference Jake's Ice Cream Adventure

By **Kathy Bourn**

If you've attended any GBA conferences in the past, you've been treated to a serving of delicious honey ice cream made using the honey from the hives of GBA members. This year, Katie Goodman arranged to have the ice cream made by Jake's Ice Cream. She not only recruited Jake Rothschild, expert hand-made ice cream maker, but she also enlisted the help of an assortment of beekeepers. We couldn't tell if Jake considered that a help or a hindrance, but he was gracious and patient enough to show us how to make the base cream at his restaurant in Atlanta.

Julia Mahood and Katie Goodman did the stirring, while Dan Long added in the donated premium sourwood honey. Once that was put into the churning machine, Preston Leigh got it all going. Of course more honey had to be swirled in, so Linda Tillman and Dan handled that while Bobby Chaisson headed to the freezer with the first batch. Dan Long, Gail Dean and Bobby Thanepohn all donated their sought after sourwood honey.

An ice cream making tradition at Jake's is for the inventor of a flavor to get the first taste. So Katie Goodman got a taste – *and then some!* There's nothing like wearing your favorite sourwood ice cream. Of course when it came time for everyone to take a taste, Bobby Chaisson found the biggest spoon.

In all, five gallons of hand-made sourwood honey ice cream (no sugar added) were served up at this year's fall conference. Thank you Jake for helping us share our honey in such a special way. 🍯





2022 FALL
CONFERENCE
RECAP

GBA 2022 Fall Honey & Beeswax Show



See
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show results
on the
following
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2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP

Georgia Beekeepers Association 2022 Fall Honey & Beeswax Show

Best in Show

Julia Mahood - Flavored Creamed Honey



Sweepstakes Award

Myra Teal - 29 points

Major Division Winners

Extracted Honey - Julia Mahood

Comb Honey - Jay Parsons

Beeswax - Holli Kircher



Black Jar Winner - Chris Jones

Individual Category Winners

Class	Total # Of Exhibits	Place	Name
Light Extracted Honey	9	1 st Place (State Champion)	Myra Teal
		2 nd	Debra Dewitt
		3 rd	Chris Jones
		Very Highly Commendable	Stephen Montgomery
		Highly Commendable	Jay Parsons
Amber Extracted Honey	16	1 st Place (State Champion)	Chloe Washington
		2 nd	Myra Teal
		3 rd	Karen Miller
		Very Highly Commendable	Heather King
		Highly Commendable	Stephen Montgomery
Commendable	Charlie Scott		
Dark Extracted Honey	9	3 rd	Myra Teal
		Very Highly Commendable	Karen Miller
		Highly Commendable	Heather King
		Commendable	Debra Dewitt
Novice Extracted Honey	15	1 st Place (State Champion)	Karen Miller
		2 nd	Chloe Weathington
		3 rd	Stephen Montgomery
		Very Highly Commendable	Regina Holloman
		Highly Commendable	Larry Clark
Commendable	Kelli Johnson		

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2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP

Georgia Beekeepers Association 2022 Fall Honey & Beeswax Show

	Total # Of Exhibits	Place	Name
Commercial Extracted Honey	2	2 nd Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb Bobbee MacBee's
Varietal Extracted Honey	3	2 nd	Jay Parsons
Sourwood Honey (Extracted)	9	1 st Place (State Champion) 2 nd 3 rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Larry Clark Rob Tuttle Stephen Montgomery Rodney Garner Debra Dewitt Virginia Webb
Infused Extracted Honey	7	1 st Place (State Champion) 2 nd 3 rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Julia Mahood Jay Parsons Debra Dewitt Bobbee MacBee's Rob Tuttle Doc's Healing Hives
Creamed Honey	7	1 st Place (State Champion) 2 nd Place 3 rd Place Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Regina Hollomon Myra Teal Ann Shelton Stephen Montgomery Julia Mahood Bobbee MacBee's
Flavored Creamed Honey	3	1 st Place (State Champion) 2 nd 3 rd	Julia Mahood Stephen Montgomery Bobbee MacBee's
Chunk Comb Honey	2	2 nd 3 rd	David Miller Myra Teal
Cut Comb Honey	1	3 rd	David Miller
Section Comb Honey	1	1 st Place (State Champion)	Jay Parsons
Beeswax Block (1 -2 lbs)	7	2 nd 3 rd Very Highly Commendable Commendable	Virginia Webb Jay Parsons Anita Curry Chris Jones

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Number



2022 FALL

CONFERENCE

RECAP

Georgia Beekeepers Association 2022 Fall Honey & Beeswax Show

	Total # Of Exhibits	Place	Name
Beeswax Block (5-10 lbs.)	1	3 rd	Virginia Webb
Beeswax Bars	9	3 rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Steve Genta Anita Curry Myra Teal Zachary Free
Beeswax Ingot	4	2 nd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Holli Kircher Myra Teal Chris Jones
Beeswax Figurines	3	1 st Place (State Champion) Commendable	Virginia Webb Zachary Free
Beeswax Candles (Molded Tapers)	2	2 nd Highly Commendable	Zachary Free Virginia Webb
Beeswax Candles (Molded Ornamental)	5	1 st Place (State Champion) 2 nd Highly Commendable	Holli Kircher Virginia Webb Jay Parsons
Beeswax Candles (Floating)	1	Commendable	Zachary Free

Prison Division Winners

Best in Show – Hancock State Prison for Extracted Honey

Extracted Honey	1 st	Hancock State Prison
	2 nd	Atlanta Transition Center
	3 rd	Hall County C. I.
Chunk Comb Honey	Very Highly Commendable	Arrendale State Prison
	2 nd	Arrendale State Prison
Black Jar	1 st	Atlanta Transition Center
	2 nd	Hall County C.I.
	3 rd	Hancock State Prison

Officials

Presiding Senior Judge: Mary Cahill-Roberts

Senior Judge: Brutz English

Judges: Nancy Simpson, Pamela Carter, Gail Dean

Secretaries: Katie Goodman, Sheryl Brousseau, Kelsey Gerhardt

Stewards: Betty Cosgrove, Melissa McLeod

Real Food Fake Food

Larry Olmsted

Book review by *David Hinton*

This will be a different kind of book review, because I found what the book said on honey to be so powerful that most of this review will be an essay that I wrote after reading the book, using information that it provided.

“Real Food Fake Food” by Larry Olmsted documents what appears to be the near total degradation and adulteration of our nation’s food supply. Consider these documented assertions made in the book: more than 99.9% of the so-called Kobe beef sold in the United States is fake; most parmesan cheese sold in the United States, grated or whole, is fake; though widely considered the healthiest fat, 75-80% of the extra-virgin olive oil sold in this country is fake, and some is even dangerous; a third of the seafood sold in this country is intentionally mislabeled. The list goes on—for an entire book.

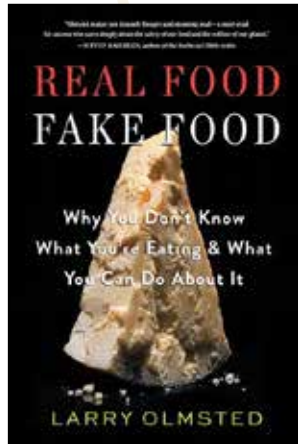
While it is an alarming book, it is the final chapter that concerns us as beekeepers. To quote from this chapter: “According to a comprehensive overview of Fake Foods published in the *Journal of Food Science* and co-authored by Dr. John Spink, director of the Michigan State University Food Fraud Initiative, **honey is the third most faked food in the world.**”

As a result of reading “Real Food Fake Food” I wrote an essay about what I labeled the “honey crisis” in America. Whenever I sell a bottle of our honey, I give the buyer a copy of this essay. Using facts taken from the book, I make the case for buying only local honey, and for paying what might be regarded as a premium price for what is clearly a premium product. Readers can feel free to copy “The Honey Crisis” and use it as they see fit. I also urge everyone reading this to seriously consider pricing their premium product appropriately. As I point out in the essay, we charge \$20 a pint and get no resistance for that price: our buyers happily pay for quality and “the real thing.”

The Honey Crisis

Yes, there is a global bee crisis, but it is even worse in the United States. The bee population in the United States has been dropping dramatically for decades along with the productivity of beehives. Several years ago, Tennessee was the hardest hit in the nation, with beekeepers losing an average of 75% of their hives! The following year, the number improved: losses were only 50%. The cost of keeping bees and producing honey has also dramatically increased.

So that means the cost of honey is skyrocketing? Wrong! In



fact, the price of raw honey has collapsed.

Why does the cost of honey defy economics? Because there is a HONEY crisis to go along with the bee crisis. In most cases, the honey you buy at your local grocery store isn’t honey. According to a Michigan State University study published in the *Journal of Food Science*, “Honey is the third most faked food in the world.” What is being sold worldwide is counterfeit honey, glucose with just enough honey added to give it flavor.

The September 2019 issue of *American Bee Journal* reports that studies in the U.K. and Germany found that 55-70% of commercially sold honey was actually adulterated honey,

containing more corn fructose, cane and beet sugar than actual honey. The worst culprit is China, one of the world’s leading “honey” producers and where Chinese media even reported 70-100% adulteration. Although the U.S. banned the importation of Chinese honey because it was found to hold high levels of a carcinogenic chemical banned in the U.S., the Chinese product is simply sold to other nations at cut rate prices who re-package it and re-sell it into the world market. Go into any supermarket and read the fine print on the labels. A “premium” honey sold at Whole Foods as “Organic Mountain Honey?” The almost microscopic print on the label reveals “Product of Mexico, Brazil, and Uruguay.”

The problem is there is no standard legal definition of honey that would give consumers protection through truth in labeling.

People often ask me why my honey is so expensive. The truth is, it isn’t. At \$20 a pint it’s cheap. But as *American Bee Journal* notes, what creates the price distortion is “the prevalence of adulterated honey in the international market, which artificially increases the supply of products which are fraudulently marketed as honey, and with which authentic high quality honey cannot compete.”

If you want to buy honey – REAL honey – only buy from a reputable local beekeeper. 🍯

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.





It's Time to Update Your Club's Information

CLICK HERE for the Google form that GBA is asking club presidents to complete to update their club's information. Please use this form to update club officers, club meeting location and times.

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's monthly meeting plans and speakers, **CLICK HERE**.

Please...



Share Your Club's Meeting Plans

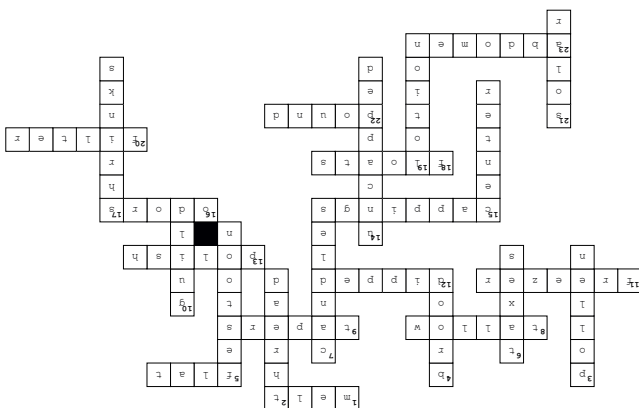
Many clubs have not met over the past year due to the pandemic. As club's return to monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*



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! 🐝

Crossword Buzzle Answer Key:



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

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

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

At our September meeting, **Dr. Jamie Ellis** joined the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association via Zoom from Florida to teach us how to recognize various queen "events" (issues) based on evidence found during hive inspections. He placed these events into different threat levels depending on severity and risk to the colony. Then, he explained how some threats are more severe at different times of the year. Last, he taught us how to remedy the events using various strategies. Dr. Ellis also provided various links to more information on this subject and other pertinent information. The presentation was very useful for everyone and we all enjoyed it! 🍯



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, September 20th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program, "Planting Pollinator Smorgasbords," was provided by UGA's **Jennifer Berry** via video. Jennifer discussed trees, shrubs and flowers best suited for pollinators – bees and butterflies. Our next meeting will be October 18th and our speaker will be **George Andl** who will be discussing probiotics for bees. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at hogba.org. 🍯

Henry County Beekeepers Association

In an effort to furnish education information to prospective beekeepers, on Saturday, October 22, Henry County Beekeepers will present a **Beginners Beekeeping Course**. The event will be held at the Farm Bureau office at 117 Racetrack Road, McDonough, GA. Running from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The course will cover equipment assembly, locating the colony, where to get bees, smoker lighting, hive manipulations, extracting honey, and more. Cost is \$30, which includes a 2023 Henry County Beekeepers membership. To sign up, contact: Danny Harvey at henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

September is a great time to learn about feeding your bees. And the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers couldn't have asked for a better teacher than **Bob Binnie** (below left) of Blue Ridge Honey. Bob condensed his four-part Youtube series on late summer/early fall feeding into a talk for our September meeting. He talked about how preparing your bees for winter is more than just putting on weight. He discussed the chemistry and the mechanics of feeding and what is going on in the hive when you add feeding supplements.

Get Started Keeping Honey Bees
With help from
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Assoc.
If you've always wanted to keep **HONEY BEES** or learn more about them, attend this **ONE DAY**
Beekeeping Short Course
Saturday Oct. 22nd
8:30 am - 4 pm
\$50/person \$25/under 18
Includes:
Hands-on Workshops
Door Prizes
Lunch
2023 Membership
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers
Future Hive Inspections
706-476-7089
404-219-7200
Hart County Agriscience Center
1551 Bowman Hwy. Hartwell
Register on PayPal or
email lhbabees@gmail.com

Also, LHBA is organizing a **Fall Short Course** for all new beekeepers who want to be well prepared to get their new bees in the coming spring. It is on Saturday, October 22 at the Hart County AgriScience Center in Hartwell. The 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. course will cover everything from equipment to inspections and includes lunch, gift bags, door prizes and Dr. Keith Delaplane's *First Lessons In Beekeeping* book. \$50 per person, \$25 if under 18. Contact Kathy at 404-219-7200 or email lhbabees@gmail.com 🍯



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Congratulations to **Ed Morgan, Jr.**, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's 2022 Beekeeper of the Year. The award was presented during MABA's annual picnic, auction and honey show in September. In addition to managing his own hives, catching swarms and doing removals, working with MABA's Junior Beekeeper program, and mentoring school kids as part of MABA's Hodges Scholarship program, Ed was at the center of the bee rescue effort undertaken at Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport earlier this year.



The picnic also featured the club's annual honey show. **Linda Tillman** was a big winner taking home a blue ribbon for honey bread, red ribbon for confections, blue ribbon for honey cake, second place for needlework, and Best in Show for her honey cake (shown right). **Julia Mahood** also took home numerous awards including a first in honey confections, second in honey cake, first in creamed honey, artwood and light extracted honey. **Mickey Anderson** won the club's coveted Black Jar Contest. 🍯

Above (l to r): MABA club president Jimmy Gatt with Beekeeper of the Year Ed Morgan, Jr., Julia Mahood, Gail Dean and Linda Tillman. Above left: Linda Tillman's Best of Show Honey Cake entry.

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

Tri County Beekeepers

Tri County Beekeepers met Monday, September 12th at the Gillsville City Park. We did an inspection and mite treatment of our club hives, then met for our regular business meeting. Our program was presented by club secretary **Olivia Menard**. She gave some details on what is going on inside our hives this time of year, explained what a strong hive looks like in the fall and winter, and discussed actions we can take now to prepare our bees for winter.

Our next meeting is October 10th. Join us for a mentoring dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Chick-fil-A (1917 Jesse Jewell Pkwy, Gainesville, GA 30501). Club hive inspections begin at 6:30 at the Gillsville City Park (7864 County Line Rd, Gillsville, GA 30543). The regular meeting follows at 7:00 p.m. **Carter Parsons** of Milton Honey Farm will be discussing Making and Marketing Beeswax Products.

We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on **Facebook** and online at tricitybeekeepers.net 



Members of the Tri County Beekeepers club pose in front of GBA's new Save the Honey Bee trailer at the GBA Fall Conference. The trailer graphics were produced for GBA by Ugly Signs in Macon, GA.



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
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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	monicashop@comcast.net	706-767-7779
BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
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Kathleen Bourn	Newsletter Editor	kathleenbourn@gmail.com	404-219-7200
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg, Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Elijay Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Elijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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 p.m.				clarkhillbeekeepers@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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm		Oct. 10	Annual Coweta Beekeepers Association Honey Show	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, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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				etowahrivereekeepers@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	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA .21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Oct. 18	Probiotics for Bees – George Andl	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Oct. 22	Beginning Beekeepers Course, 9 am - 4:30	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		Oct. 22	Fall Beekeeping Short Course 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	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, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Oct. 18	Cooking With Honey –Linda Tillman	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm		Oct. 13	Club Black Jar Contest – Dinner at 6 pm (\$8) Meeting starts at 6:30	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers	Lake Verne	Annually in January				–	Clinch
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleakley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Oct. 10	Making and Marketing Beeswax Products – Carter Parsons, Milton Honey Farm	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 Association of Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association	Ware County Library 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)				bjpete7731@att.net	Douglas

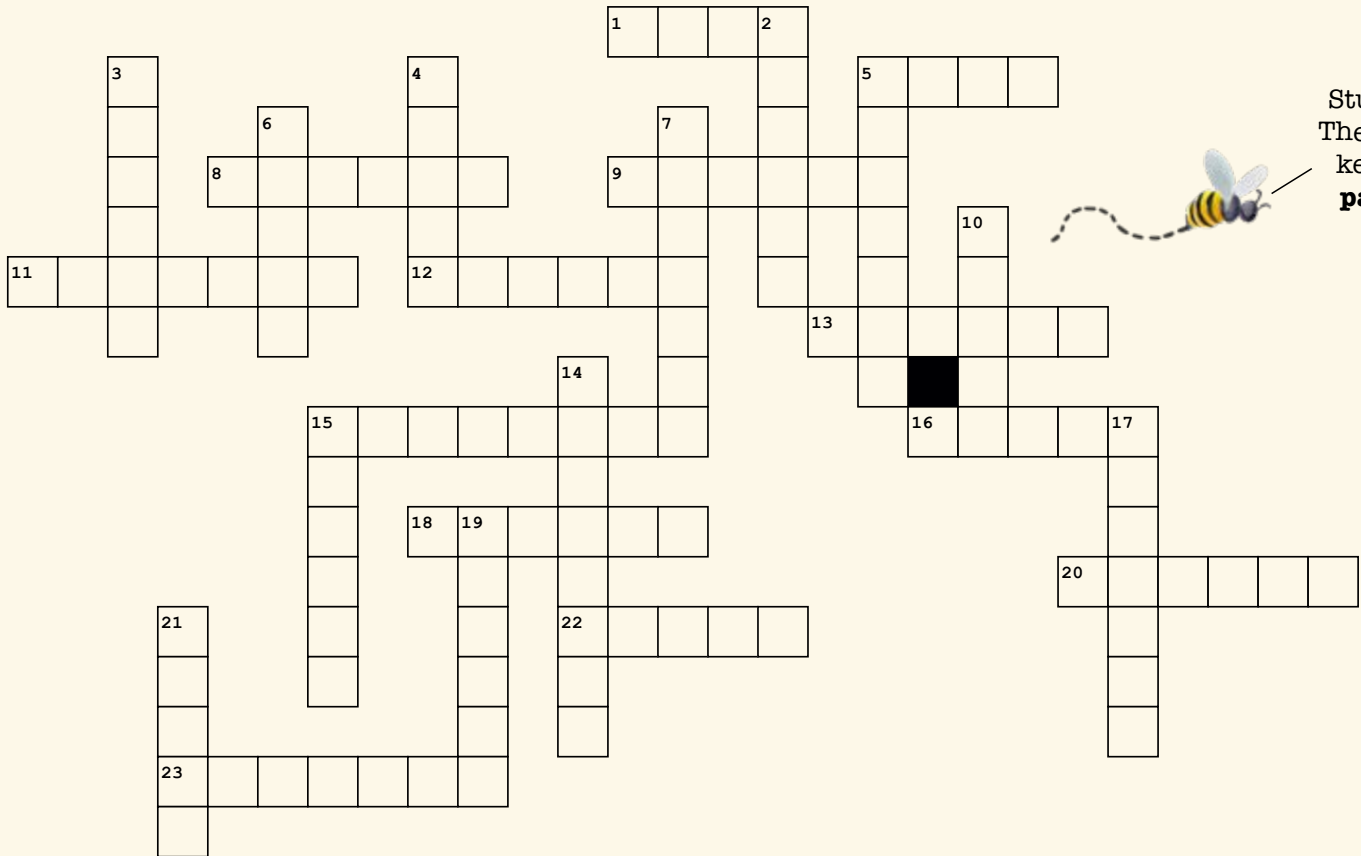
**Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.*

Crossword Buzzle



Fun & Facts About Wax

You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at:
<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/fun-and-facts-about-wax>



Stumped?
 The answer key is on
page 15.



ACROSS:

1. Wax will do this at 143 - 151 F
5. To get a ribbon at a honey contest, wax candles must have a bottom that is _____
8. Another substance used to make candles but this is very smoky
9. Long skinny candles poured into molds are called
11. The best place to store your unused wax is in this appliance
12. Candles made by lowering the wick into melted wax are called _____
13. To get a ribbon for a wax block, one must do this with silk
15. These are white when covering honey and brown when covering brood.
16. Beeswax candles burning in a bathroom help remove offensive _____ from the air
18. If wax is melted in water, it does this
20. All wax must go through this before being used for candles, lip balm, lotion, etc.
22. one of these in wax supports 22 pounds of honey
23. The bees make wax by exuding it from plates located where on their body?

DOWN:

2. Quilters and leather workers use beeswax to make this go smoothly through the material with which they work
3. This stored in wax is used by the bees to make bee bread for young larvae
4. worker, drone and queen larvae are all types of bee _____ who emerge from honey comb capped cells
5. Term to define bees hanging from each other as they pass wax up to make honey comb
6. Wax was used to pay these types of fees in medieval England
7. The Catholic Church used to require that these on their altars be made purely of beeswax
10. One of these still operates in England to regulate the standards for producing wax candles
14. Honey is left _____ until it is at least down to 18.6% moisture
15. Where the wick should be located in a prize winning candle
17. When wax goes from liquid to solid it does this which helps get it out of molds
19. Wax can be made into this kind of bar and used to soften your hands
21. Wax is often melted in this type of wax melter outdoors on someone's driveway



Spilling *The* Honey

NOVEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving to all! As an organization, the Georgia Beekeeper Association continues to grow and evolve. Last month, I accepted **Georgia Zumwalt's** resignation as GBA secretary. She was gracious to accept the call to volunteer for us, but life has other plans for her time now. **Mark Shields** has accepted the appointment to be our GBA secretary until our fall 2023 conference, at which time I hope he will run and be voted in for this officer position. Many thanks to Georgia and Mark for their service to GBA!

In other administrative news, **Brutz English** is leading GBA's financial auditing committee, which will oversee completion of this necessary task. Thank you for volunteering.

As a reminder, the **GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee** meets approximately every third Thursday of the month to consider grant requests for GBA members. Once you send in a grant, that request goes to each committee member's email. Please **read the guidelines** and know that we diligently review your requests before we meet. We have a good discussion and make a decision regarding the request based on the merits of the request. We never spend money that is not in the bank and we review the bank balance before and after each meeting. All of us benefit when new projects are supported and when beekeeping is made more accessible to the public. Those are the types of grants we like to support.



One recent license plate proceeds grant helped fund genome sequencing for 100 honey bee colonies to determine the honey bee genomes in Georgia and to include our beekeepers in ongoing genomics studies. Beekeepers will benefit directly from this work and we will be contributing to the future of beekeeping in this country and around the world. We will share the detailed results as soon as we are able.

The **Spring GBA Artisan Honey Show** will be held at our February 18, 2023 conference in Macon GA. It's time to plan for your entries. Please read all the rules and get your entries ready. Many thanks to our world class Welsh Honey Judges for managing this annual show!

My Thanksgiving thanks will include all of you who make GBA what it is. I'm honored to have this opportunity to work with such special people in our truly amazing organization!

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



Has Your Club Applied For **GBA License Plate Funds?**

If not, what are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in well over \$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."

You can fill out the grant application form on our webpage. 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.** 🍯

YOUR GBA LPP COMMITTEE
Sophia Price, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman



🍯 Plants for Bees: Witch Hazel 🍯

By **Jimmy Gatt**, president, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



Above: A young witch hazel tree (left) and a closeup of witch hazel flowers (right)

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), also known as “American witch hazel,” is a small tree native to almost every American state east of the Mississippi river. Witch hazels are slow-growing trees that will eventually reach around 20 feet in height and about 20 feet in spread. This tree is blooming October 25 on my property and will likely bloom into November. It’s possible that this tree, which normally blooms in November in other parts of the United States, will bloom earlier in our warmer growing zone.

The Genus “*hamamelis*” comes from the Greek meaning “with fruit.” That’s because the flower of witch hazel is connected to last year’s fruit in a capsule that will explode when mature and eject the seeds dozens of feet from the plant.

This tree can tolerate light shade, but prefers more sun if you can get it. Because this tree will keep its foliage longer and bloom in fall, it will provide fall interest when many other plants are going dormant.

If you would like a witch hazel that blooms in winter, then I suggest Ozark witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*). This plant is a multi-trunked shrub that will spread underground much in the same way that sumac spreads. Its bloom time is December to March, and it is a plant I am eager to integrate into my native pollinator landscape. Unlike the large native range of *H. virginiana*, Ozark witch hazel is native to only the Ozark plateau, and likely has been ignored by the nursery industry. 🍯

Honey Extraction Delights

at East Georgia State College

By *Paul Cerpovicz*

On September 22, East Georgia State College (EGSC) hosted its third annual campus/community Honey Extraction Party! Approximately 50 people of all ages from the campus and the community attended the event to learn more about honey bees, how honey is extracted, and to lend a hand in the process. For most of those present, the event was a new – *and very sweet and sticky* – experience! All of those attending the event had the opportunity to help uncap frames of honey, load and spin the extractor, filter the honey, and bottle a sample for themselves.

The honey extraction event was scheduled to coincide with the restart of EGSC's Vision Series, a program that had been on hold since the Covid-19 pandemic. East Georgia's Vision Series brings speakers and cultural events to campus to benefit the college and surrounding community. The speaker for the Vision Series that night was former Georgia Governor, and now Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Sonny Perdue. Chancellor Perdue took a turn in spinning the honey extractor and then bottled a few jars of EGSC honey for himself.

East Georgia State College's main campus in Swainsboro, Georgia, currently has 10 beehives that are maintained by faculty, staff, and student members of the campus's Beekeeping Club. The campus established its apiary in 2015, and in 2016 EGSC became a Bee Campus USA affiliate, with the aim of promoting honey bee and pollinator awareness and the protection of their habitats to all members of the community. With this in mind, EGSC students, staff, and faculty visited local schools bringing along honey bees in an observation hive, read pollinator books to secondary school classrooms, and donated books on honey bees and pollinators to the classroom teachers and the schools' media center.


Generous support from the **Georgia Beekeepers Association's License Plate Proceeds Committee (LPPC)**, and Emanuel County's Mill Creek



Foundation, have allowed the college to purchase large numbers of a variety of educational books on pollinators and pollinator gardening appropriate for a wide age range of readers. These materials are distributed free of charge during many campus and community events throughout the year, along with pollinator activity sheets, wildflower seeds, pollinator-friendly African Blue Basil plants propagated in EGSC's greenhouse, and samples of campus honey. The goal is to increase people's awareness of and appreciation for all pollinators and to better understand how important they are to everyone's lives and the environment.

East Georgia State College will continue to expand upon its efforts to promote honeybee and pollinator education to its students,

staff, faculty, and the community. The campus and community Honey Extraction Party was a fun and educational way to help reach these goals. Everyone participating seemed to have a great time and thought the honey was delicious. It is hoped that this event will continue far into the future!

To see additional pictures of Chancellor Perdue and others taken during the honey extraction, **visit EGSC's Flickr pages.** 



Above: (top) Faculty member Paul Cerpovicz (left) with University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue holding his jars of East Georgia State College honey; (middle) EGSC President David Schecter looking on while Dana Wright (Executive Secretary, right) and Jasmyn Hall (Beekeeping Club student member, left) load the extractor; (bottom) A young community member uncapping honey during EGSC's Honey Extraction Party

NEVER BUY BEES AGAIN?

MABA Swarm Trap Cluster Aims To Put Free Bees in Members' Hives

By Jimmy Gatt, President, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

I have heard stories from many beekeepers who have told me that they *never* buy bees. With minimal effort, they are able to keep their apiary levels stable year after year by hanging swarm traps and replenishing their losses with the free bees they catch. For this reason, I have encouraged people to hang swarm traps, and my bee club, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, has strongly encouraged beekeepers to hang swarm traps. Yet, few beekeepers actually follow through with this advice.

Why would beekeepers be reluctant to hang swarm traps and catch free bees? I believe part of the reason is that swarm traps have been presented as difficult to build, difficult to deploy, and only for people who have lots of “space” where swarm traps can be placed. All of these negative pressures contribute to apathy winning out over action. After seeing a presentation by beekeeper Stephen Page about his swarm trap design, I was inspired to transform all my fruitless pleading with beekeepers into actively building swarm traps for my club’s members.

The guidelines for effective swarm trap building come directly from renowned honey bee researcher Dr. Tom Seeley, whose experiments showed that the most effective swarm traps have the following qualities:

- 15 feet off the ground
- Well-shaded but highly visible
- Recommended entrance: 1 ¼ inch opening
- Entrance position: near the floor of the hive
- Entrance direction: facing South (ideally)
- Volume: 40L – approximately the volume of one standard ten-frame Langstroth hive body
- Dryness and airtightness (“dry and snug, especially at the top”)
- Attractive odor (lemon grass oil, drawn comb)

I believe that the “15 feet off the ground” is what has scared off so many beekeepers from trying to hang swarm traps. Few beekeepers are willing to climb 15 feet up a ladder, and even fewer of them are willing to carry a heavy swarm trap full of bees, comb, and honey 15 feet back *down* the ladder. Fortunately, I believe that hanging a trap that high is completely unnecessary. (I have personally caught two swarms in old equipment that was no more than three feet of the ground.) Since buy-in from club members was of utmost importance to me, the “15 feet off the ground” stipulation was the only attribute of Seeley’s swarm trap design that we actively chose *not* to follow.

Hanging and unhooking the traps needed to be, as I like to say, “brain-dead easy.” Steve Page’s design provided an ideal solution

– a simple-to-assemble bracket with a French cleat, making it easy to hang a 40-liter box on a tree with ratcheting straps.

Continued on following page



Top (left): The finalized swarm trap design uses two nuc boxes. Top (right): The French cleat hanging bracket allows for easy hanging and unhooking. Middle (left and right): At monthly build parties, MABA volunteers assemble the swarm traps for purchase by club members. Bottom: The goal is to build 20 swarm traps at each build party.

Continued from previous page

PUTTING PLANS INTO ACTION

In Phase I of what we're calling the MABA Swarm Trap Cluster, our goal is to build a swarm trap for every single club member to place on their property. After presenting this idea to our club, I quickly had more than a dozen MABA members who were eager to assist.

Our first task was to finalize a design for the club's swarm trap. We weighed the values of durability, weight, and ease of building to come up with our final design which is based on two nuc boxes, glued together, using a French cleat for hanging, and using 3D-printed rotating entrance discs. We believe this design will be rugged and dependable, and will last for many years with proper care.

The MABA swarm traps are assembled at build parties that we plan to hold once a month. Before the build party, our volunteer woodworking team cuts all of the lumber for the hanging brackets, lids, French cleats, and floors. Other volunteers bring the unassembled nuc boxes, the numerous screws, wood glue, and joining brackets needed to assemble the swarm traps.

Each build party has a goal of assembling 20 swarm traps. So far, we have had two build parties and successfully built 40 swarm traps. The price of the swarm traps has been between \$50 and \$53, depending on the cost and availability of materials. We maintain a sign-up list of club members who are ready to purchase a trap. After the build party, a volunteer sends an email to the list to notify members that traps are available for purchase.

Our volunteers are split up into two groups: the woodworking team (which is responsible for cutting all the lumber), and the build party team (which does the time-consuming work of assembling the swarm traps). I appointed a team lead for each of these teams, and I am grateful to Wayne Hughes and Ana Whitt, who chair those two teams.

The build parties have so far been quite fun. In fact, I believe that nothing builds group cohesion and camaraderie more effectively than when group members work with their hands, side by side, toward a common goal. One of my club members told me, "This is the first time I've felt like we've done a club project that was really for the entire club."

THINKING BIG

Once we have deployed a fleet of swarm traps for every MABA member capable of hosting a swarm trap, we will have close to 300 swarm traps around the metro Atlanta area. If we have merely a 10% catch rate, that is 30 swarms per year. A 20% catch rate would be 60 swarms per year, and a 30% catch rate would be 90 swarms per year. When a MABA member catches a swarm in their swarm trap, the swarm belongs to the member, not to the club. However, if the member lacks enough equipment to house their swarm, then the member can choose to call the MABA Swarm Hotline, and our club's "Swarm Commander" will contact another MABA member who can take the swarm from the person who caught it. It's up to the swarm catcher and swarm retriever to decide how to transfer the swarm, but if they both have MABA swarm traps, then the transfer is simple: the swarm catcher will

close the rotating entrance discs the night before the retrieval, the swarm retriever will bring their MABA swarm trap to the pickup point, and then the two MABA members simply exchange swarm traps. The catcher now has an empty swarm trap, ready to catch another swarm, and the retriever takes the occupied swarm trap back to their apiary to transfer to their equipment!

Phase II of our project is when every MABA member has at least one swarm trap. Then, we will open up the list to members who want to buy additional traps to place in other spots on their property, or even on friendly neighbors' properties or public properties. I was able to use Nextdoor to solicit neighbors for swarm trap hanging locations, and five of my neighbors told me they would be happy to host a swarm trap on their property. I believe this is a public service that beekeepers can offer, and it also allows the public to feel like they have a part to play in "saving the bees." (Most swarms do not survive. By providing swarm traps to the public, they can take part in giving honey bees a home.)

Phase III of our project is where our club can reliably catch more than 100 swarms per year. Once this happens, MABA members will (hopefully) never have to buy bees again. Instead, they will receive bees from a swarm trap of their own or from the club's Swarm Trap Cluster.

LEARN MORE

If you would like to know more about MABA's Swarm Trap Cluster, please feel free to email me at president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org, and I will be happy to share our swarm trap plans, our build party plans, and our cut list with you. I am eager to see other clubs take up a project like this. 🐝



Above (left): Volunteer members prep pieces for assembly at MABA's October build party. Above (right): Via its Swarm Trap Cluster program, MABA hopes to deploy close to 300 swarm traps around the metro Atlanta area. Bottom: MABA Swarm Trap Cluster volunteers take a break from building.

Volunteering Like a Busy Bee

By **Linda Tillman**, GBA Past-President

In the beehive, honey bees move into and perform many different jobs and responsibilities over time. As soon as they emerge as adult bees they become housekeepers, and clean their own cell for re-use. Later, they will become nurse bees and feed the new larvae. Each job gives them strengths and skills that they take to their next assignment. For example, being a ventilator bee strengthens their wings so that they can be a forager bee next.

Being a member of a bee club is a perfect opportunity to be like a bee. Starting small is a great beginning. Many clubs have needs for help with many small tasks. You could be a greeter as people arrive for the meeting and help distribute name tags, if your club uses them. Or you could bring food to add to refreshments. Many clubs have door prizes and raffles at the meeting. You could volunteer to sort the raffle prizes or to help hand them out.

On a larger scale, many clubs have committees to put on their annual short course or to build a holiday parade float. You could find a way to help with committee jobs that can range from large to small.

Of course as your wings get stronger, you might decide to serve on the club's board of directors or run for office. Or you might serve on a GBA committee. One way that brings many people to volunteer for GBA is to help with the raffles at our conferences. You meet everyone at the conference and it's lots of fun.

I have volunteered since I became a beekeeper in 2006. I served Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association as the original hive inspection chair for years. I recently returned to that position. I've been on the MABA board, served as secretary, and served on several committees.

In GBA, I served on the conference committee for more than six years. I co-edited the newsletter with Gina for four years. I also served as secretary and then was GBA president for four years. Now I help with GBA wherever I am needed.

What is the value for me? I've made friends with beekeepers all over Atlanta and throughout the state. Beekeepers are wonderful, generous, enthusiastic people and I feel privileged to know them. Like a bee, in each job I take on, I learn some new skill or challenge myself in some way that continues to enrich my life.

I encourage you to join me in volunteering as a worker bee in your home hive or with GBA. Try it, *you'll like it!* 🐝





GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR

2022 HONEY SHOW

Recap



See complete show results on the following three pages.

Congratulations to Holli Kircher for her Best in Show wax casting of an antique cake plate (above). The intricate detail of the pattern in the glass produced a stunning replication of the same design in the beeswax.



2022 HONEY SHOW

Recap

Best in Show

Holli Kircher – Artwork Related to Beekeeping

Major Division Winners

Best Honey – Myra Teal – Light Extracted Honey

Best Beeswax Item – Holli Kircher – Artwork Related to Beekeeping

Sweepstakes Winner

Holli Kircher

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY WINNERS

Class	Place	Name
Light Extracted Honey	1st	Myra Teal
	2nd	Heather King
	3rd	Anne Huntsinger
	Very Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb
	Highly Commendable	Anita Curry
	Commendable	Jessica Nixon
Amber Extracted Honey	1st Place	Heather King
	2nd	Virginia Webb
	3rd	Myra Teal
	Very Highly Commendable	Kevin Tucker
	Highly Commendable	Anne Huntsinger
Dark Extracted Honey	Very Highly Commendable	Myra Teal
	Highly Commendable	Heather King
Novice extracted Honey	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Anita Curry
	Highly Commendable	Wendy Brockman



2022 HONEY SHOW

Official Results *(continued)*

Class	Place	Name
Creamed Honey	3rd	Myra Teal
Cut Comb Honey	Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb
Full Frame Comb Honey	3rd	Virginia Webb
Black Jar	1st Place	Anne Huntsinger
Beeswax Block (small)	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Heather King
	Very Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb
	Highly Commendable	Anita Curry
	Commendable	Myra Teal
Beeswax Bars	2nd	Virginia Webb
	3rd	Myra Teal
	Very Highly Commendable	Heather King
	Commendable	Anita Curry
Beeswax Candles – Molded tapers (natural)	2nd	Holli Kircher
	Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb
– Molded tapers (colored)	1st Place	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Virginia Webb
– Molded Ornamental	1st	Holli Kircher
	2nd	Heather King
	Highly Commendable	Virginia Webb
Artwork Related to Beekeeping	1st	Holli Kircher
	2nd	Marie Moore
Crafts Related to Beekeeping	3rd	Virginia Webb
	Highly Commendable	Paige Veal
	Commendable	Sandy Collins
Poetry Related to Beekeeping	Highly Commendable	Sandy Collins
	Commendable	Virginia Webb

Class	Place	Name
Photography Related to Beekeeping	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Virginia Webb
	Very Highly Commendable	Anita Curry
	Highly Commendable	Myra Teal
Notions, Potions, & Lotions	3rd	Holli Kircher
	Very Highly Commendable	Anita Curry
	Highly Commendable	Heather King
	Commendable	Myra Teal

HONEY SHOW OFFICIALS:

Steve Genta, Senior Welsh Honey Judge
 Sheryl Brousseau, Welsh Honey Judge
 Show Secretary, Sarah English





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

The Phil Chandler Quick and Easy Top Bar Feeder

by Kathy Bourn

This month's column is really a review of someone else's Beekeeper's Workbench idea. I've been trying for some time to think of a feeder I can use in my top bar hives that would easily allow me to replenish the feeder while the bees are still using it. So, of course, on the internet I go to see if I can steal someone else's idea.

Phil Chandler is a British beekeeper who mainly keeps in top bar hives. He has a **Youtube video** showing a simple feeder design that uses a half-gallon milk carton. He fills the carton with sugar and water, shakes it well, and then cuts three edges of the long side of the carton. This creates a ramp for the bees to get to the syrup. I liked the idea, thinking that I could just unscrew the cap and refill the feeder while the bees were still on the ramp.

I tried it the way he had it in his video and it seemed that the ramp didn't really float all that well. In an effort to improve the feeder, I screwed a piece of shim wood to the edge and it stayed afloat better.

I set it out this time of year, so as expected, the bees were in a mad rush to all get their share of sugar syrup. The big test was to see how many bees ended up drowning. Unfortunately, I'm sorry to say that this feeder seemed to fail that test... I ended up with about 100 dead bees in the end. However, I like the idea of a floating ramp, so I'm going to work on another prototype this winter. Let me know if you have any ideas I can steal. 🐝



A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees

Helen Jukes

Book review by **David Hinton**

You can tell that beekeeping is alive and well in the United States by the large number of books about bees and beekeeping that are published each year. In fact, earlier this year the New York Review of books devoted its entire “Short List” page to four new books by rookie beekeepers which I have also been reviewing in this column.

You too can write and publish a beekeeping book! It seems that all you need to do is

The book is instructive because Jukes approaches beekeeping as if she were a doctoral student researching for a dissertation. She goes deep into the history of beekeeping and hive construction and shares her findings with her readers.

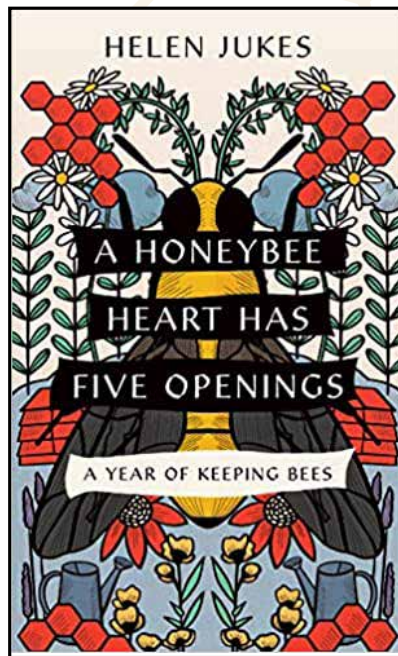
to follow this established formula: (1) be a rookie beekeeper chronicling your first year of beekeeping; (2) live in an interesting location (today’s beekeeper lives in the historic university town of Oxford, England; other books chronicled

beekeeping experiences in New York City and aboard a houseboat on an estuary outside Vancouver, Canada); and (3) make lots of mistakes and encounter many trials and tribulations in your first year. After all, readers want drama to keep them engaged, right?

Oh, one last thing — *you need to be a good writer*. Well, that probably means most won’t have a bee book in our future.

If you are wondering why you would want to read a book by a rookie beekeeper, let me answer that with a quote from the English poet John Dryden, who answered the question “Why read?” with this simple answer: “For delight and instruction.” I can categorically say that *A Honeybee Heart has Five Openings* is both delightful and instructive.

Author Helen Jukes is a 30-something who has recently moved to Oxford from London for a demanding job with a non-profit. Single, she shares a house with a girlfriend. Helen was introduced to beekeeping by a friend in London, and she was immediately hooked. Bored with her job and generally lonely, she fairly quickly identifies their overgrown backyard as a good location for a hive. She is given a loving shove by



girlfriends who pool funds to buy her a nuc as a Christmas present, and the following spring she picks up her nuc and is off and running.

The book is “delightful” (Dryden’s word choice) because of Juke’s constant philosophical inquiry, always going deeper than the surface. “Isn’t it possible that there is some experience we’re seeking, which we believe we might access, by bringing ourselves into an encounter with a hive? . . . But beekeeping is about more than gaining proximity to a hive; it’s about entering into a relationship with a colony... In the city, I was surrounded by people every day — crowds of them, wherever I went — but somehow it was by the hives that I felt most human.”

And the book is instructive because Jukes approaches beekeeping as if

she were a doctoral student researching for a dissertation. She goes deep into the history of beekeeping and hive construction and shares her findings with her readers. I didn’t know until picking up this book that there are paintings of beehives on the walls of 4500 year old ancient Egyptian temples. And the book is also instructive on the practical side, because she relates beekeeping experiences different from what most of us encounter. She eschews the Langstroth hive and instead, guided by her mentor, chooses the Kenyan top bar hive. And, she joins a local “natural beekeeping” group, which she says “marks a shift away from some of the techniques developed by modern beekeeping towards an approach that is less concerned with honey and more focused on the bees. Less intervention, the message seems to be, and it sounds good to me.”

You will enjoy reading this book. 🍯

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.



The Birds and the Bees

By Kathy Bourn

This is the first year I have been serious about putting out hummingbird feeders, and I was greatly rewarded. Probably a dozen birds frequented the two big sugar water feeders on my front porch. I say probably a dozen because have you ever tried counting those little speed demons?

In Georgia, our main hummingbird season runs from March until October. The ruby-throated hummingbird rules this time of year. It is the only hummingbird species known to nest east of the Mississippi River. In early October, my birds seemed to be loading up for their migration and they were serious about getting their share of sucrose. Every day I would watch what I call the great hummingbird wars. Each one would take a quick sip but frequently look up to watch for incoming attacks from the others.

Their acrobatics and dive bombing techniques were mesmerizing to watch.

One day, in late October, they all left – loaded with sugar and on their way to their winter homes. Never wanting to waste good sugar water, I set it out for my bees. For my top bar hives, I use little quail feeders with lengths of rope in the troughs. They worked perfectly to set out by my girls' watering hole. The bees didn't seem to mind that this was leftovers from the birds.

I discovered that there is sometimes a winter season in Georgia for the rufous hummingbird. It goes from late November to March. I don't know if they'll come as far as Northeast Georgia but it won't hurt to leave a little sugar water out just in case. It can always go to the bees later. 🍯





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



We need your info!

Please...

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans With Us!

As most club's have completely returned to their regular monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

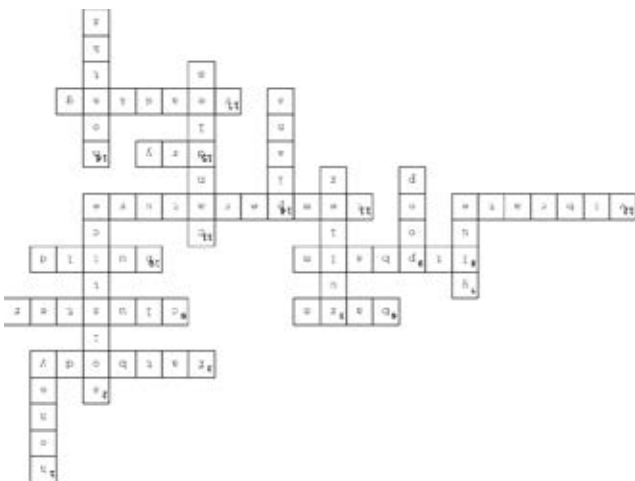
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us who your monthly speaker is, their presentation topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🍯



Crossword Buzzle

Answer Key:



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

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County



October started with the annual county fair, and The Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County also hosted their honey show. The fair lasts 10 days; 26 volunteers worked 300 combined hours talking to more than 2,000 people visiting our booth. Many who came by loved the new Save the Honey Bee license plate and expressed interest in purchasing one. Of course, a true favorite at any gathering is the observation hive with live bees. Thank you to GBA and the **License Plate Proceeds fund** for helping to provide this for use at our community events.



Bob Binnie, of Blue Ridge Honey Company, spoke to the club about comb and had quite an impressive collection of pictures demonstrating what secrets may be lurking in our comb. We appreciated him sharing his extensive knowledge about not only comb, but personal stories and highlights from his career as a commercial beekeeper.

Welsh Honey Judge **Rodney Garner** had the huge task of judging 50 entries, in 18 categories. It was impressive to see such diversity in entries, and strong participation. 🍯

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers

The Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers had a blast last month as we cheered on our winners at the GBA Fall Conference Honey Show, and participated in our own club's honey tasting competition. We proudly celebrate our members **Virginia Webb, Jay Parsons, Larry Clark, Stephen Montgomery, Chloe Weathington, and Heather King** for winning awards in extracted and creamed honey, section comb, and beeswax blocks, figurines, and candles.

Our club got their own taste of what it is like to be a black jar honey judge at this club meeting. With the honey divided into groups, we remarked repeatedly to each other how difficult it was to pick between these few entries. *We gained a new respect for honey judges!* Eventually from the 12 entries, **Joyce and Larry Clark** were awarded the well-earned title of the best tasting honey in the NE GA Mountain Beekeepers club. A big congratulations to them! 🍯



Drum roll please... The best tasting honey in the NE Georgia Mountains goes to Joyce and Larry Clark! It was chosen by their peers via popular vote during the Northeast Georgia Mountains Beekeeper Association's 2022 Black Jar Contest. Congratulations Joyce and Larry. It was so good!

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

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

SOWEGA club members had so much fun participating in Chehaw Park & Zoo's annual Boo at the Zoo celebration held on October 29th. This event is a great opportunity for us to share our love of honey bees with hundreds of kids! We gave away treat bags – and healthy treats too – and enjoyed seeing lots of little ones dressed up as bees! Thank you **Daniela Zamora, Connie Zamora, Sarah Landin, Becca** and the **Junior Zoo Volunteers** for all their hard work setting up, passing out treats and sharing information about bees. Congratulations to **Nick Baltrusch** and **Jeniah Trejo**, the winners of our Halloween backpacks baskets raffle.

On November 10th, 6 to 9 p.m., SOWEGA will hold its annual Fall Honey Show. Entries are limited SOWEGA Beekeepers Club members only. The event is open to the public and will take place at the Elks Lodge (3213 Gillionville Rd.) in Albany, GA. 🍯



TriCounty Beekeepers



Carter Parsons of Milton Honey Farm demonstrated a beeswax product and spoke about different ways to use beeswax and how to market different products.

TriCounty beekeepers club maintains hives at the Gainesville Botanical Gardens and Gillsville City Park. These hives are inspected each month by different amazing certified beekeepers who graciously volunteer their time. Thank you to our amazing members and volunteers!

At our next club meeting on Nov 14th, **Virginia Webb** will be demonstrating beeswax candles. Visit <https://tricitybeekeepers.net> for more info. 🍯

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	Gabeepresident@gmail.com	404-519-4141
Derrick Fowler	Vice President	Gabeepv@gmail.com	678-449-6203
Mark Shields	Secretary	gabeesecretary@gmail.com	
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	monicashop@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
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				aron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Elijay Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Elijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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 p.m.				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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm				cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	The meeting is in person, and the speaker will be on Zoom.	Nov. 3	The Impact Of Viruses On Honey Bees At The Colony, Individual, And Cellular Levels – Dr. Michelle Flenkner, University of Montana	DunwoodyBeekeepers@gmail.com	DeKalb
East Metro Beekeepers	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm		Nov. 7	Going Long, All About Horizontal Hives Of Various Types – Kathy Bourn	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
Etowah River Beekeepers	Clayton Homestead Canton, GA 30114	2nd Thursday, 7pm; weekly Bee Babble		Nov. 5	Annual Business meeting and Club End-of-Year celebration	etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm		Nov. 15	November Dinner and Elections	Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com	Forsyth
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

*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 Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock
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@littliverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Nov. 22	Dr. Keith Delaplane, University of Georgia Honey Bee Program Director and Professor of Entomology	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarkesville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm		Nov. 10	How to Cook with Honey – Linda Tillman	officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm		Nov. 3	RFBea November Open House	monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm		Nov. 10	SOWEGA Beekeepers Club 2022 Fall Honey Show	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Nov. 14	Beeswax Candles – Virginia Webb	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 Association of Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association	Ware County Library 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)				bjpete7731@att.net	Douglas

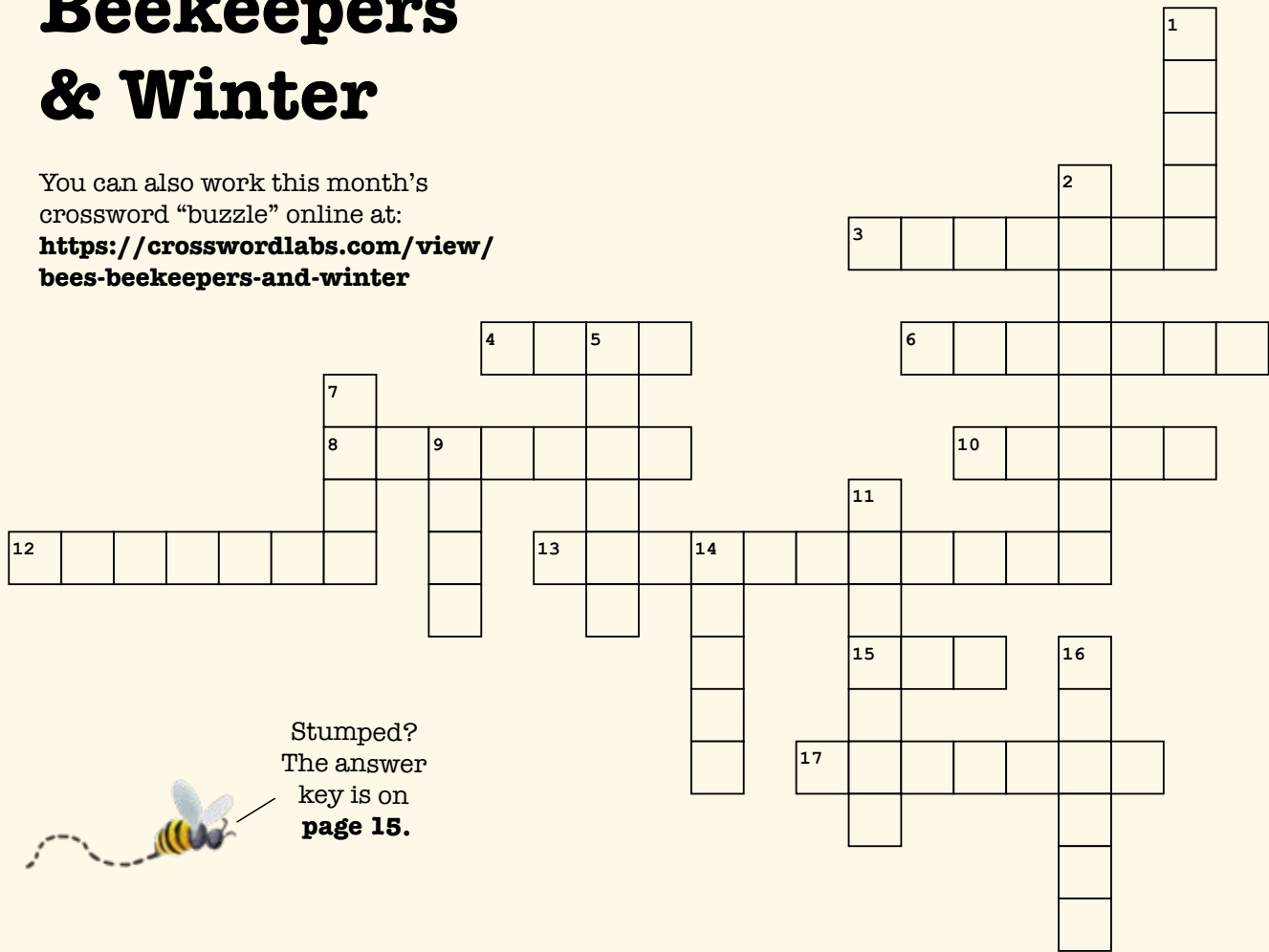
**Please note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advisable to check with each local Club with regards to their meetings and events.*

Crossword Buzzle



Bees, Beekeepers & Winter

You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at:
<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/bees-beekeepers-and-winter>



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 15.



ACROSS:

3. Winter bees need this organ to function well to provide them with an energy reserve
4. Made of lotion with recipes that include beeswax and sometimes honey, these are fun to make in winter.
6. Bees do this with each other during the winter, often in clumps as large as a basketball in a thriving hive.
8. Pouring the mix for these into tiny containers is often a challenge for a beekeeper.
10. Beekeepers often use the winter to pull out their hammer to _____ equipment for the upcoming season
12. To stay warm bees unhook the hamuli (hooks) connected their wing pairs and shake their shoulders. When they _____ like this it keeps the colony warm.
13. One of the goals of winter bees is to keep this high around the brood
15. Sugar can be fed in this form to bees in the coldest months just by pouring it on the inner cover.
17. Beekeepers often curl up in bed during cold months and catch up on their _____

DOWN:

1. In winter bees feed on stored _____
2. The queen gradually decreases her laying until this day in December when she begins increasing her laying again to build up for spring
5. If the beekeeper builds hive boxes in winter, stacking the boxes makes it easy to paint a lot at once using this tool.
7. This must be used in joints on frames and hive boxes to assure their longevity
9. On warm winter days, bees fly outside the hive to do this
11. Using their beeswax, beekeepers can give these as holiday presents
14. In winter the beekeeper makes these for the next year - will they try to increase apiary size? Will they try to harvest more honey? What techniques will they use to accomplish these things. All of these things are _____ for the next spring.
16. In winter bees live as long as three of these instead of summer when they die after six or seven weeks



Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello GBA members and volunteer members! Every morning I wake up thankful for the blessing I have to serve as the president of GBA. This is an amazing bee club with incredible members and member volunteers.

The holiday season is a time to be with family and friends and to be thankful for the gifts we have in our lives. I am thankful to be part of an extraordinary community that promotes a caring and giving environment within the amazing world of honey bee culture and education. Every member of the GBA should be proud of what we have accomplished in this last year.



One of our extraordinary members, **Virginia Webb** (*left*), is a GBA Past President, a GBA lifetime member, and a *five-time* World Honey Show Gold medalist. In 2020, as part of presentation she was planning for our 100-year anniversary conference, Virginia began work gathering our GBA history. I've now asked her to become our official GBA Historian and she agreed! I am very excited to know that Virginia will be saving all this rich knowledge for generations to come. *Many thanks for all you do, Virginia.*

I want to wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful, and rejuvenating holiday season. Please take care of yourselves, your family, and your friends.

With gratitude,

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



Post-it
for Local
Club Presidents

Has Your Club Applied For GBA License Plate Funds?

If not, what are you waiting for? GBA is bringing in well over \$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."

You can fill out the grant application form on our webpage. 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.** 🐝

YOUR GBA LPP COMMITTEE

Julia Mahood, *Chair*

- Gina Gallucci
- Derrick Fowler
- Luke Ellerman
- Georgia Zumwalt
- Bob Binnie
- Katie Goodman



BEESWAX

(Not Just for Candles Anymore)

By *Kathy Bourn*

I finally had the chance to attend a beeswax candle and ornament making presentation by Virginia Webb at the Tri County Beekeepers meeting. Virginia not only produces some of the best honey in the world (she has the awards to prove it!), but she also has perfected the art of working with beeswax. While teaching us all how to render, melt and pour beeswax candles and ornaments, she gave us some great ideas for using beeswax in other ways.

All beekeepers know the classic uses – candles, lip balms, and lotions. Virginia also mentioned something I couldn't wait to try. I have a pair of shoes that just will not stay tied, and yes, I knot them three times and they still won't stay tied all day. She said to rub some beeswax on the laces. I tried it the next day and it worked great!

A few of her other suggestions included rubbing beeswax on drawers that stick (*right*). I also tried that on a kitchen drawer that has been sticky since it was new and now it glides freely. Virginia also sells beeswax to quilters for their needles and carpenters for finishing nails.

After that talk, I wanted to know more about the household uses for beeswax. It has been used throughout history for waterproofing and preserving and early on in the production of polishes and cosmetics. We seem to be re-discovering beeswax as a natural solution to household problems. Here are some of the uses I found for our beeswax, but I'm sure there are thousands more.

AROUND THE HOME

- Another idea from Virginia was to use beeswax to **unstuck those stubborn zippers**, especially on winter coats.
- **Canvas shoes (*right*) and other outdoor gear** can be made more water resistant by rubbing on beeswax and then melting it with a hairdryer.
- **Preserve the patina of copper** by rubbing it with softened beeswax and polishing off the excess with a lint-free rag.



- I polish my **concrete countertops** and give them a natural luster by rubbing melted beeswax on with a chamois cloth.
- If you **graft trees**, you can use beeswax to protect the grafting scion from drying out by mixing it with resin and tallow.
- Rub beeswax on **wooden window sashes** that stick.
- You can make simple **furniture polishes** with beeswax and mineral oil.
- Make **pinecone fire starters** coated with beeswax. These are great to add to your holiday gift baskets.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Use it to seal jars when **canning**
- **Condition wood cutting boards/spoons/knife handles (*right*)** by adding a half teaspoon of beeswax to a cup of mineral oil or extra-virgin coconut oil.
- Buff beeswax on **cooking pans and sheets** to keep them looking good and ready for use.
- Make **beeswax wraps** by coating cotton cloth with beeswax and oils to use instead of plastic wrap to keep food fresh.
- Season your **cast iron cookware**.
- While you're in the kitchen you can whip up a **batch of caneles**. This traditional french pastry uses molds that are coated in beeswax and butter.



FOR HOBBIES

- Virginia helped us make **beeswax ornaments** using beautiful clay molds.
- Dip the cork/cap of your **honey or mead bottles** in beeswax.
- Make **herbal wax sachets** using beeswax, flowers or herbs, and essential oils.



Continued on next page

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- In **leatherwork**, you can use beeswax to care for the leather and also use it on needles to help penetrate the leather. Combine equal parts beeswax, tallow, and neatsfoot oil to rub on with a rag. This also works on work boots and leather gloves.
- A fun project with kids would be to make **beeswax crayons**. Mix melted beeswax and soap shavings with food coloring and pour into molds and let cool.
- **Beeswax bowls (right) and luminaries** are made by dipping a balloon filled with water in beeswax numerous times. Pressed flowers can then be added.
- Coat the **reeds of woodwind instruments**.
- Use beeswax to **make batik art**. This art form uses beeswax and wax-resistant dye on fabrics to create beautiful designs.
- Beeswax protects the surface of **tambourines**.
- Wax your **snow skis**.
- **Make matches waterproof** by dipping them in beeswax.
- You can **preserve beautiful fall leaves** with beeswax.
- Beeswax reduces the friction on **bow strings**.

IN THE WORKSHOP

- Beeswax rubbed on a **hand saw** can make it glide easier.
- Coat your **garden tools** with beeswax to protect them from the elements.
- You can loosen up **rusted nuts and bolts** using melted beeswax.
- Wood structural elements like **exposed ceiling beams** can shine by warming equal parts beeswax, linseed oil, and turpentine and rubbing on with a burlap rag.
- **Bronze can be protected from oxidation** by brushing on a solution of 1/3 pound of melted beeswax in 1 quart of turpentine. Buff it with a towel to create a thin, hard coat.
- **Whip a frayed rope** by wrapping a string that has been dipped in beeswax tightly around the end of the rope.

PERSONAL CARE

(There are tons of recipes on the internet and in books for these items)

- **Mustache wax and beard balms**
- Make your own **lip balm**



This beeswax bowl by Holli Kircher is an amazing example of what can be created with wax.

- **Body lotion** in both liquid and bar form
- Ease the discomfort of **cracked heels**
- Assorted types of **soap** using beeswax
- Homemade **balm for your dog's paws**
- Create your own **salves and natural vapor rubs**.
- **Tame flyaway hair** by rubbing beeswax over the strands. It can also be used as a homemade pomade to keep a hairdo in place without looking stiff.

Of all these uses for beeswax, there is one in particular that I really want to start utilizing. It was devised before the invention of the wet-and-seal envelope. It's the use of the **stamped wax seal**.

The history of wax seals dates back to the middle ages and was reserved for the wealthy or ruling class. We've all seen it in the movies, the use of a stamp pressed in soft wax to seal an envelope or folded paper to authenticate the sender and secure the delivery. It was also considered someone's signature on official documents. Many times it is done with a signet ring but wax seal stamps are also used.

So think about your beeswax when it comes to personalizing your gifts, holiday cards, and invitations, along with all its other uses. 🍯



TRAFFIC CONTROL

We've all seen heavy traffic at the front of our hives. Yet somehow our bees always seem to navigate it all successfully. So the honey bee seems to be the perfect subject for a traffic control box in downtown Hartwell, GA. The students at the Hart County High School's Applied Design course took on the task and produced this painting, honoring the honey bee, on a traffic control box around the courthouse. 🐝





BEE PART ART

The Amazing Eye of the Honey Bee

By **Kathy Bourn**

Above: Photo by Ralph Grimm, winner of the 2015 Nikon Top Photomicrographs award. Inset photo by University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre.

We see our colonies as a single superorganism. We see each bee as a single creature. But we can also see each creature as one in a collection of incredible parts. This picture of a honey bee's eye covered in dandelion pollen grains lets us see our bee's parts as being beautiful and highly functional. The photograph above this article was taken by an Australian photographer, Ralph Grimm, and won the 2015 Nikon Top Photomicrographs award.

The honey bee actually has five eyes. On each side of the head are two large compound eyes that are used for seeing shapes and colors. There are also three small ocelli, or simple eyes, on the top of the head that are key for navigation and orientation.

The two compound eyes are on the sides of the head as opposed to the front as on a fly. The bee's eyes are very hairy. If you watch closely, you can sometimes see your bees cleaning the pollen off the hairs of their compound eyes and moving that pollen to their corbicula or pollen basket. Each compound eye consists of thousands of lenses called facets. A worker bee has 6,900 in each eye and a drone has 8,600. Each lens sees the world from a different angle but collectively the eye produces a mosaic pattern that the bee sees.

The three ocelli on the top of the head consist of one lens each, but have numerous sensors. These eyes, guided by the position of the sun, allow the bee to navigate to resources and return to the correct hive.

But what about when the sun is blocked by clouds? That is when the honey bee's ability to see polarized light kicks in. Polarized

light moves in one direction and a bee's eyes can scan and match those polarization patterns. Also, UV light can penetrate cloud cover.

Bee vision is in the ultraviolet spectrum which allows them to detect patterns on flowers that we cannot see. People base their color combinations on red, blue, and green, while bees use ultraviolet, blue, and green. This is why honey bees have trouble seeing red. They only go to red flowers if those plants also have ultraviolet markers that we can't see. Some flowers such as sunflowers, primroses, and pansies have nectar guides that can only be seen in ultraviolet light.

Bees can also see individual flowers while traveling at a high rate of speed because they see color faster than we do.

So if we see a flower or weed that looks ugly to us, the honey bees see something valuable they can use. Many weeds are so successful because they look attractive to bees. *The lesson here is that beauty is in the eye of the bee-holder.* 🐝



Photo by Kathy Bourn

FOLLOW UP:

GOING HORIZONTAL

By Jon Cordell, Certified Beekeeper, Tri-County Beekeepers

Editor's Note: Jon Cordell wrote a previous article about his horizontal hive in the March 2022 edition of Spilling the Honey.

Like many first-time beekeepers, I started with a 10-frame double deep hive. Soon, I decided to split that hive and add an eight-frame hive to my apiary. With the split accomplished and now in my second year of beekeeping, I started dreaming of the 100 pounds of honey I expected from these two hives.

My intention was to experiment with a number of different hive configurations. I was excited by the idea of a horizontal hive. So my friend Barry Underwood, an extraordinary craftsman, and I built a long Lang and I ordered a nuc to fill it. I understood the many possible advantages of the long Lang. After all, horizontal hives are convenient (all of the work is done at one height), manageable (no heavy supers to lift from high places), and accessible (expandable inner covers reveal only the frames you are accessing).

However, to my disappointment, the 10-frame colony died and developed wax moths in the process, and the long Lang went queenless. I mourned the 10-frame and requeened the long Lang successfully. In August, my remaining hive, the eight-frame, was robbed and did not survive. These issues are probably not unusual for second year beekeepers, but it still was discouraging.

Back in April, Barry and I had built a second long Lang and sold it. The buyer loved it as much as I loved my own long Lang. She installed a nuc and her colony was booming. To our great good fortune, she decided to move to Colorado and gifted me her horizontal hive bees (but not the beautiful long Lang we built for her). She also gave me a double deep eight-frame hive full of bees. Luckily, Barry was able to build us another long Lang, this one with a screened bottom board with shelves for sticky boards (see photo). At this point, I had three hives – her eight-frame and two long Langs.

In October, I experienced a hopeful and helpful inspection of all my hives with master beekeeper David Hollomon, during which we found all my queens and good brood and resources. But only a few weeks later, I discovered that the remaining eight-frame hive had also succumbed.

From March to the present, we have gone from one hive to four hives and back to two hives. Remember the 100 pounds of honey? It was more like about four gallons! The two colonies left are both long Langstroth hives and they are strong. So, we did grow this season... in a roundabout way. And they are both horizontals! Could there be a reason? Time will tell. 🐝





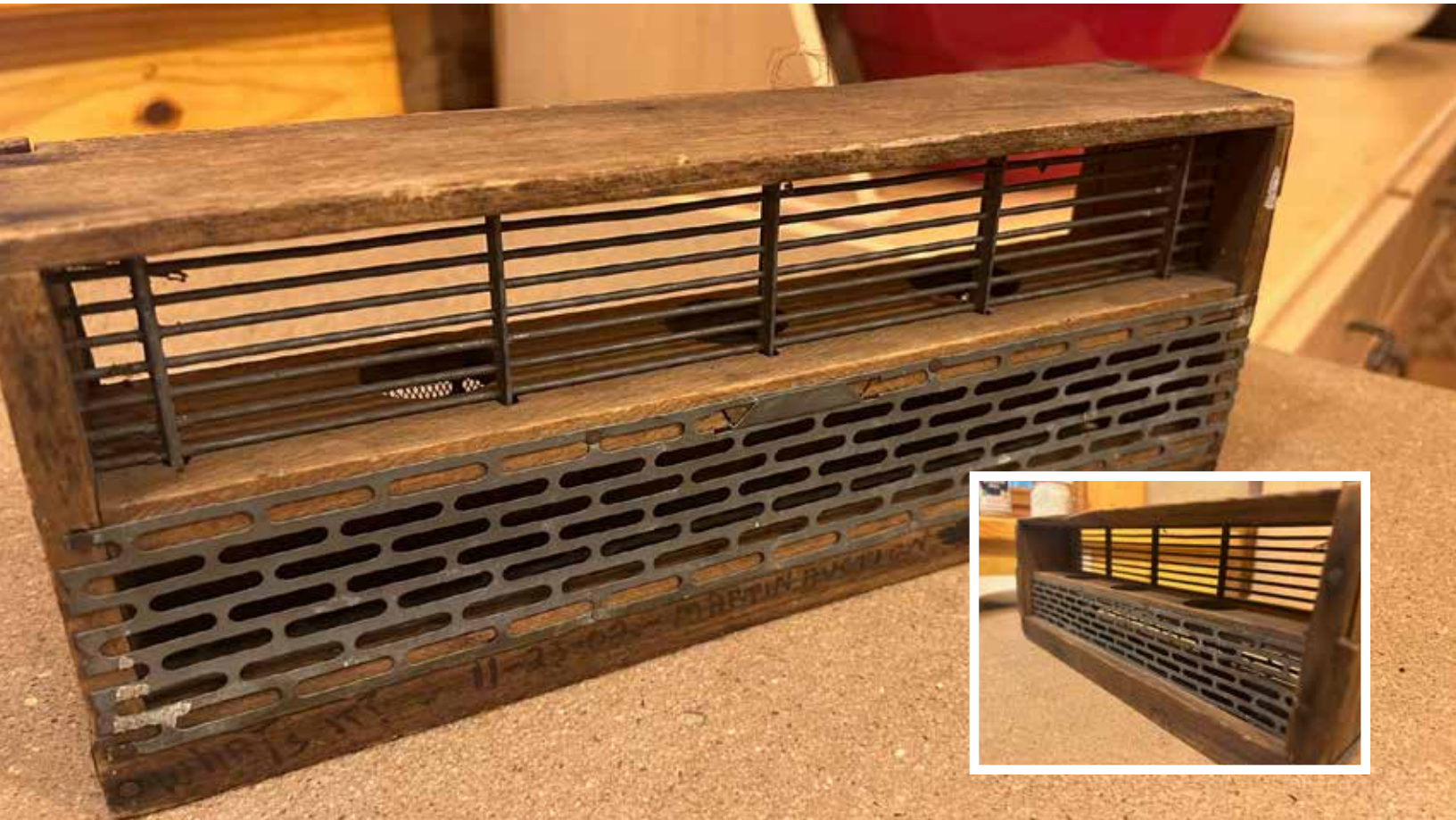
WHAT IS IT?!?

by Kathy Bourn

Once your family and friends know you're a beekeeper, you get a bunch of beekeeping gifts. I got this thing from my sister for my birthday and I have no idea what it is. The only writing on it reads, "What is it? - 11-23-02 - Martin Auction." She got it on Ebay and they described it as an antique, primitive queen bee box, 1950s, handmade.

I assume it's some kind of contraption to isolate the queen. It has a queen excluder on one side and a worker bee cage below. The metal bottom (or top - I'm not sure I have it right side up) slides open. I don't know if it is missing parts or if it is meant to fit onto the front of a hive. The center hole in the middle has a metal plate covering it and the two holes on the ends have wire, open-ended cones pointing toward the bee cage. It might just be something that is meant to be a queen-includer to prevent swarming.

Let me know if you have any ideas about how this thing works and what its origins might be. If I can figure it out, I might give it a try this spring. 🐝



The Honey Bus

Meredith May

Book review by **David Hinton**

Of all the books that I have reviewed for this newsletter, *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May is the most moving book about the true power of beekeeping. The power is not in what the beekeeper does for bees—no, the power is what bees can do for us human beings. As its author Meredith May demonstrates in this poignant memoir, bees can not only change your life, they can save your life.

At the age of five May's parents bitterly separated and her mentally disturbed mother took Meredith and her younger brother

"When I looked inside a hive, [I never imagined] that their labors had anything to do with me. It was astounding to realize that every creature, no matter how small, helped keep everyone else alive in a hidden organization."

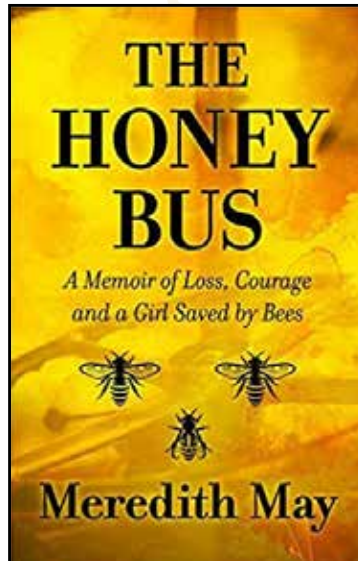
Matthew cross country from their home in Rhodes Island to live with her mother and stepfather in the Carmel Valley of California. While her mother sinks deeper into depression and never leaves her bedroom, and Granny, her own mother, enables her child abandonment, it is only

step-Grandpa who is emotionally available to the children. And Grandpa is a fifth-generation beekeeper.

Grandpa keeps over 100 hives in scattered locations throughout California's wild and beautiful Big Sur country. Among the Big Sur's earliest settlers, Grandpa has known the land long before it became the popular tourist destination it is today, along the way making the acquaintance of illustrious inhabitants like John Steinbeck and Henry Miller.

Grandpa's hives were in the most idyllic setting imaginable. As Mayfield writes "Grandpa and a beekeeper friend owned a 160-acre piece of undeveloped Big Sur wilderness that he said was perfect for bees. Named for the Spanish word for tick, the Garrapata Canyon brought full sun, was protected on either side by steep chaparral ridges and isolated from people. All the bees had to do was fly out of the hive and feast on California sagebrush all the way to the mountain peak, then float back down as their bodies grew heavy with nectar. The land was an all-you-can-eat buffet for bees, offering them a year-round menu of sage, eucalyptus and horsemint, while Garrapata Creek provided a clean source of water."

As Meredith's mother turned more and more abusive, she sought refuge with Grandpa and his bees. The honey bus of



the book's title was an old army bus that Grandpa converted into his beekeeping work shed and that housed his honey extractor. Meredith's initial young child's fear of Grandpa's honeybees fairly quickly turned into fascination and love for the bees as she became Grandpa's beekeeping assistant. While her Granny, mother, and father were locked into a never-ending human war, Meredith saw the beehives as the opposite of her family, a place where all the inhabitants worked harmoniously together for the common good.

An outbreak of the dreaded foulbrood disease causes Grandpa to lose a number of his hives, and Meredith helps him with their obligatory destruction. At first surprised by Grandpa's sorrow, she has an epiphany: "Now it made sense why

Grandpa was so distraught. Losing his hives was so much more than a personal disaster; it was a setback to nature itself."

But the epiphany did not stop with an insight into Grandpa—Meredith had a life changing insight into herself and her own relation to the world: "Grandpa had just revealed a hidden staircase in my mind, showing me that there were so many things to learn beyond what I could see with my own eyes... When I looked inside a hive, [I never imagined] that their labors had anything to do with me. It was astounding to realize that every creature, no matter how small, helped keep everyone else alive in a hidden organization... *All this time I thought Grandpa and I were the ones taking care of the bees. When all along, the bees were taking care of us.*" (italics mine)

But please—don't just read this review---watch the following book trailer from the publisher, featuring author Meredith May talking about the book.

<https://vimeo.com/283780109> 

David B. Hinton is a history professor and the author of two books. He and his wife Dolly Carlisle are urban beekeepers in Nashville, TN.





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



We need your info!

Please...

Share Your Club's Meeting Plans With Us!

As most club's have completely returned to their regular monthly programming, *we need updated information about how and where your club is getting together.*

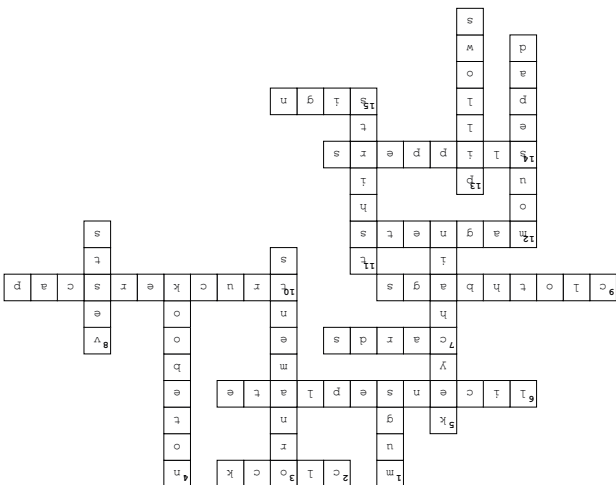
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

Tell us who your monthly speaker is, their presentation topic, and when and where you'll be meeting. Please note if the meeting is virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Thank you! 🍯



Crossword Buzzle

Answer Key:



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

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

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers

Our November 7th meeting was a busy night at Eastern Piedmont. We started off the evening with an excellent presentation by **Kathy Bourn** on various types of horizontal hives. Then we had a people's choice best-tasting honey competition and a honey show exhibition. We also had our elections and voted to purchase a portable observation hive for teaching. 🐝



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met on Tuesday, November 15th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program, Probiotics for Bees, was presented by **George Andl**, a member of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. George discussed why probiotics are important to humans and bees. He cited studies that gave evidence of the benefits of probiotics for our bees. George answered questions from the membership.

HOGBA members voted for Beekeeper of the Year – nominees were **John Keys** and **Steve McCrary**. The winner will be announced at our potluck party and silent auction which will be held on December 20th. Our monthly mentoring session begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org. 🐝

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association

At the November meeting of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association our speaker was master beekeeper **Linda Tillman** (right), whose delightful (and delicious) presentation taught us all about Cooking With Honey. For those who couldn't attend or might want to prepare some of the recipes presented, Linda has made a number of honey recipe videos which you can watch on **her YouTube channel**. Linda loves sharing all aspects of her beekeeping with friends, children, grandchildren, new beekeepers, and anyone who will listen. 🐝



Oglethorpe County Bee Club

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club's October and November meetings focused on honey. In October, **Keith Fielder** (inset), a Welsh Honey Judge, educated us on the finer points of making creamed honey, and also tasted our honey samples to tell us what floral sources the bees were collecting their nectar from. In November, we had our in-house black jar honey contest. The winners were **Joerg Mayer** (1st), **Mike Conner** (2nd), and **Dan Long** (3rd). 🐝



Oglethorpe County Bee Club black jar contest winners (L to R) Mike Conner, Joerg Mayer, and Dan Long

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

Rome Floyd Beekeepers Association

On November 3, the Rome Floyd Beekeepers held a very successful open house. Andi Beyer shared honey and cheese pairings that were delicious. Jim Williamson brought a variety of meads to sample that he made, including a batch that is still aging which he mixed during a lecture at a RFBeeA meeting in 2019! Doug's Deli showed out with these beautiful cookies that BA brought. And Bee City USA -Rome had shirts, stickers and yard signs available. 🍯



Tri-County Beekeepers

At the November meeting of the Tri-County Beekeepers Club, members were treated to a live demonstration of working with beeswax by Georgia beekeeping legend **Virginia Webb**. The only four-time recipient of the gold medal for Best Honey in the World at the World Honey Show, Virginia made the intricate art of beeswax look easier than it really is, as she made candles and assisted volunteer members in pouring their very own beeswax ornaments from a variety of molds. You can never go wrong with an angel!

Our Holiday potluck and annual honey show will be on **December 12th** at 6 pm at 7864 County Line Rd, Gillsville, GA 30543. **Signup to bring a side and join us.** 🍯



Georgia beekeeping legend Virginia Webb gave a live demonstration of working with beeswax.

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
Mark Shields	Secretary	gabeesecretary@gmail.com	
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	gabeetreasurer@gmail.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	blueskyhoney@live.com	706-540-4166
Julia Mahood	Metro Atlanta	julia@mahoodstudio.com	678-448-2576
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
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
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, 6pm				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	Pickens County Extension Office (Chamber of Commerce Bldg.) 502 Veterans Memorial Bldg. Jasper, GA 30143	2nd Thursday, 7pm				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, 7pm				arron_rob@me.com	Bartow
Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County	Hebron Baptist Church 202 Hebron Church Rd., Module G, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Elijay Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Elijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm				Beekeepersofgilmercounty@gmail.com	Gilmer
Beekeepers of Madison County	Trinity Baptist Church, 2411 US-29 Danielsville, GA 30633	4th Monday, 6pm				beekeepersofmadisoncounty@gmail.com	Madison
Brier Creek Beekeepers	Burke County Office Park, main auditorium	2nd Thursday, 6pm				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, 6pm				beekeeperluke@gmail.com	Muscogee
Chattooga County Beekeepers	Chattooga County Agricultural Bldg 40 Middle School Rd, Summerville, GA 30747	2nd Tuesday, 7pm				beemaster@chattoogabeekeepers.com	Chattooga
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	Canton Moose Family Life Center 278 Moose Loop Rd Canton, GA 30114	3rd Thursday, 7pm				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 p.m.				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 Beekeeper Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm		Dec. 12	Members' Christmas Potluck Party, 7 pm Fairgrounds Conference Center Exhibit Building, 275 Pine Rd. Newnan, GA	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm				DunwoodyBeekeepers@gmail.com	DeKalb
East Metro Beekeepers	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1275 Flat Shoals Rd., Conyers, GA 30013.	4th Tuesday, 6pm				eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm				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
Etowah 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	Argene Claxton Canning Plant 1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA. 21069	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)				heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Dec. 3	Annual Christmas Dinner, 7 pm Bethany Baptist Church 4 North Bethany Rd, McDonough, GA	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

*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 Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock
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@littliverbeekeepers.com	Cook
Macon Beekeepers Association	The Wellness Center in Macon 3797 Northside Dr, Macon, GA 31210	1st Thursday, 6pm				ganofs@cox.net	Bibb
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		Dec. 13	Annual Holiday Celebration, 7 pm Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Ave, Atlanta, GA	president@ metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College Campus 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville GA 30512	1st Tuesday, 6pm				abletinker@windstream.net	Union
Northeast GA Mountain Beekeepers	North Georgia Technical College - Dining Hall Annex, 1500 Highway 197, Clarksville, GA 30523	2nd Thursday, 6pm				officers@negabeekeeping.com	Habersham
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers	Walker County Agriculture Center 10052 US 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739	2nd Monday, 7pm				kaizen.thornberry@gmail.com	Walker
Ogeechee Area Beekeepers	Fordhams Farmhouse Restaurant, 23657 Hwy 80 E, Statesboro, GA 30458	Last Thursday, 6pm				secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm				ocbbeeclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County	Dallas Primitive Baptist Church 227 Legion Rd, Dallas, GA 30132	2nd Monday, 7pm				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, 7pm				potatocreekbeekeepers@gmail.com	Spalding
Rome Floyd Beekeepers	ECO Center 393 Riverside Parkway NE, Rome, GA 30161	1st Thursday, 6pm				monicashep@comcast.com	Floyd
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm				sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers	Reynolds Nature Preserve, 5665 Reynolds Rd, Morrow, GA 30260	3rd Monday, 7pm				tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm				threecountybees@gmail.com	Bleckley, Dodge, & Pulaski
TriCounty Beekeepers	Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Road Gillsville, GA 30543	2nd Monday, 7pm		Dec. 12	Holiday Pot Luck and Honey Show, 6 pm	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 Association of Beekeepers	LaGrange UGA Extension Office 144 Sam Walker Dr, LaGrange, GA	3rd Monday, 7pm				troupcountybees@yahoo.com	Troup
Twin Rivers Beekeepers Association	Ware County Library 401 Lee Ave, Waycross GA 31502	2nd Monday, 6:15pm				twinriversbeekeepers@gmail.com	
Walton County Beekeepers	Loganville Baptist Church 132 Church St. Loganville, GA 30052	3rd Tuesday, 7pm				waltonbees@yahoo.com	Walton
West Georgia Beekeepers	American Legion Post 145 6449 Bankhead Hwy, Douglasville, GA 30134	3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. (mentoring, 6:30 p.m.)				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.*

Crossword **B**uzzle



Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 10.



Bee-Themed Things Given to, or Owned by, Beekeepers

You can also work this month's
crossword "buzzle" online at:
crosswordlabs.com/view/bee-themed-things-given-to-or-owned-by-beekeepers

ACROSS:

2. Sadly mine ordered from Internet did not last past a year but it kept good time until then and reminded me regularly about bee-ing
6. A beautiful tribute to the honeybee on the back of your car to entice others to support the honey bee
7. Don't we all stalk the drugstore racks looking for these to send in the mail to our bee friends!
9. If you didn't get one for free at a conference, you may also have purchased one to carry stuff around in. My favorite one says: Life is Better with Bees
10. Looks like a baseball cap but is good for the long haul - might have a bee or a bee logo on the front
12. These stick to your car as if by magic and often have a bee theme: Beekeepers do it Better.
14. My best pair looks like a right-foot and a left foot bee
15. Often made of metal, mine says, Caution: Honey Bees

DOWN:

1. My favorite one keeps my tea hot and says Queen Bee
3. these are hung on a Christmas tree and can range from replicas of hive boxes to small beekeepers in full regalia. I have one that is a bee veil.
4. Good for taking bee-related notes in
5. My favorite one not only keeps my car keys but also has a tiny smoker on it.
8. Often we order these from catalogue companies contracted to put our club logo on them
11. Every beekeeper has a lot of these with important messages on the chest like: I Hive There-fore I Bee. My favorite has a bird and a bee on it with the caption: "We do WHAT???"
12. My computer mouse moves all over this without fear of getting stung by the bees on it.
13. These on my couch feel more comforting behind my back than the boring ones that came with the couch.