



Spilling *The* Honey

JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish you the happiest times in this new year!

Our GBA conference planning committee is hard at work preparing for our rapidly approaching next gathering scheduled for February 17th and 18th in Macon, Georgia. We've been to Middle Georgia State University's Hatcher Conference Center before and received great reviews from you about the facility and meals. It's a beautiful place for us to start off the new beekeeping year. Registration will open soon. Please be on the lookout for additional details and information.

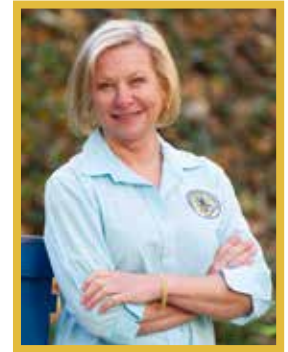
We also welcome all the new leadership within our local clubs across the state. Most of us have elected new officers to terms beginning now. Please watch for an email from GBA so that we can gather all the new officers' names and contact information. Additionally, in the next few weeks, local club presidents will receive a starter package with ideas and plans which you may find useful.

Please enjoy this issue of our newsletter. Give particular attention to the important announcement from Dr. Keith Delaplane, Paul Arnold and Jennifer Berry regarding the future of the **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute** and its programs. **See page 3.**

Finally, please remember to apply for GBA license plate funds to support your club's educational initiatives. **See details on page 2.**

With gratitude,

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

SAVE THE DATE



20 23

SPRING
CONFERENCE
& ARTISAN SHOW

FEB 17 & 18

MIDDLE GEORGIA
STATE UNIVERSITY

ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
MACON, GA

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



An Important Announcement Regarding **Young Harris Beekeeping Institute**

By Keith Delaplane, Paul Arnold, and Jennifer Berry

May 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the annual Young Harris College / University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute. In 1992, co-founders Keith Delaplane, Paul Arnold, and Robert Brewer launched their vision of a training event where beekeepers at all levels could sharpen their skills and knowledge with a multi-day program

While the institute itself is shutting down, the Georgia Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judge training/testing programs will be re-homed into GBA's annual schedule of conferences beginning in fall 2023.

of lectures and workshops in a setting of sublime natural beauty. In time, the Institute became a fertile nursery for specialty offerings such as the Georgia Master Beekeeper, Welsh Honey Judge, and the Georgia certified honey bee remover program. Along the way, the organizers introduced students to “the best bee scientists in the English-speaking world” and created quality time for good food,

live music, and fun and fellowship.

So it is with a lump in our throat, that we announce we are shutting down the Young Harris Institute. This decision is

driven by short-term exigencies – mounting cost overruns and logistical difficulties – but also by structural problems such as our non-centralized location, a proliferation of alternative training opportunities available to beekeepers, and our partial redundancy with services provided by the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

We temper our disappointment with the good news that the Georgia Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judge training will be re-homed into GBA's annual schedule of conferences beginning in fall 2023. We believe that the Georgia Beekeepers Association is the right home for these services and will ensure their rigor and availability for future generations.

We honor the goodwill and hard work of armies of volunteers who made the Institute possible over its 30-year tenure, and we are humbled at the legions of enthusiastic students, many of whom considered Young Harris a highlight of their year. We know that the good outcomes of the Institute will ripple across Georgia and the region for years to come.

Thanks to all of you who participated in this story. It was a good ride, and the future remains bright for beekeeping across Georgia and the Southeast. 🍯



Young Harris Beekeeping Institute attendees in May 2022.



20 23

SPRING
CONFERENCE
& ARTISAN SHOW

FEB 17 & 18

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
MACON, GA**

**REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON!**

Watch for more details.

**FEATURING keynote
presentations by:**

Dr. Keith Delaplane
Kamon Reynolds
Dr. Jeff Harris



Talking Bees at the Farm Bureau Conference

By Kathy Bourn

It is a tough assignment, but spending three days on the warm beachfront of Jekyll Island, GA in December had to be done. GBA was invited to participate in the Georgia Farm Bureau's 85th annual conference. It was an excellent opportunity to let hundreds of agriculturally-inclined people learn more about the importance of honey bees and the contributions of the Georgia Beekeepers Association.

Bobby Chaisson and I tried to make an eye-catching display while luring folks in with honey straws. We presented information about GBA, the Honey Board, and Pollinator Partnership along with a video demonstrating how to inspect a bee hive. **Virginia Webb** and GBA donated beautiful gift baskets that were awarded. Attendees also got the chance to sample a variety of honey from around the southeast. 🍯



Short Courses: Where Successful Beekeepers Get Started

By *Linda Tillman, Past President, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association*



One January Saturday in 2006, I was driving in Atlanta, listening to the Walter Reeves' Lawn and Garden Show on the radio. His guest was a beekeeper, discussing how wonderful taking a short course can be. I pulled over to the side of the road, plugged my phone into the cigarette lighter (how far we have come, right?), called the number provided, and registered for the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Short Course right then and there.

At that time, the course was held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. The program was already well established then, and now it has added years to its history. While the location has changed a number of times, the high quality of the course has only gotten better and better over time.

This year's MABA's course is a one-day program that takes place all day on January 28 at the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in the heart of Buckhead. The agenda covers everything the prospective beekeeper will need to get started. This year, Harold Lanier of Lanier Bee Barn will be there as MABA's vendor, offering the equipment, suits, and other essentials that you need to get started. In the middle of the day, lunch is provided – but even better, you get to sit at a table with eight other participants where you can ask all of your unanswered questions of an experienced beekeeper assigned to your table. All participants are sent home at the end of the day with a goody bag filled with helpful information.

Since the weather is often cold in January (one year it snowed while the course was going on!), it isn't a good idea to open a hive for a hands-on experience. However, MABA does offer new-bee beekeepers a demonstration of how to light a smoker at a break during the short course, and provides a bee-season long hive inspection program led by experienced beekeepers at six Atlanta locations. New beekeepers can attend those sessions to be a part of a hive inspection and gain a better understanding of how to look into the hive.

When I took my first MABA short course, I went home on Cloud Nine, thrilled about the opportunity to have bees. I ordered my bees that day and ordered equipment the next. Like most of us, I counted the days until my bees could be in my yard. The MABA course left me feeling like I could actually do this thing that I had wanted to try for 20 years.

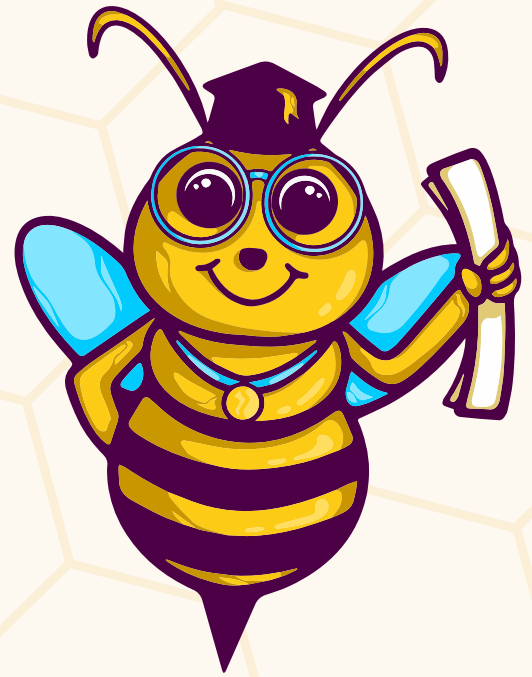
Join us! You'll have fun, meet a lot of people, and learn a ton. 🐝



2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses

Brother Adam is quoted as saying, “Listen to the bees and they will guide you.” That is true, but when you decide to start keeping honey bees, it helps to have some guidance from beekeepers, too. GBA beekeepers and beekeeping clubs are a great place to start.

Numerous clubs throughout our state offer beginner beekeeping courses during the beekeeping dearth – also known as winter. These courses can be one-day sessions or multiple days over several months. Many include hands-on field days and supplemental materials. If you know someone who would be interested in becoming a keeper of bees, please encourage them to register for one of these courses or check with their local GBA club to see what it may offer. 🐝



BEGINNING JANUARY 3

Cherokee Beekeepers Club
2023 Practical Beekeeping Class
Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Pickens County UGA Extension
68 D. B. Carroll St. Jasper, GA 30143



The Cherokee Beekeepers Club (CBC) and local beekeepers (Jason Segers, and BJ Weeks) are hosting a 5-week course on beekeeping for beginning beekeepers. The course will cover getting started, building equipment, understanding bee pests, medications, strategies for keeping bees, producing, and extracting honey. A strong emphasis will be on understanding the bees and processes involved. The class will finish with a daytime hands-on workshop in the bees. This is a class for beginners who wish to understand and start keeping honeybees. The class is an annual event started in 1997. Understanding the motivations of the bees enables us to continue learning and effectively work with the bees. Package bees can be ordered during class for spring 2023.

Cost: Fee for virtual and in-person is the same.

\$75 – Add \$25 for spouse or child (non-beekeeper & same household)

\$45 – 2022 CBC member keeping bees in 2022 (2023 renewal required)

\$20 – Student registered as a group

Click here for more information.

JANUARY 14

UGA Honey Bee Lab and
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association
2023 Athens Beginners Beekeeping Seminar
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
State Botanical Garden of Georgia
Porcelain & Decorative Arts Museum classroom
2450 S Millledge Ave, Athens, GA 30605



If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper, this comprehensive seminar featuring Georgia Master Beekeepers and industry professionals will prepare you to create a successful hive. This workshop will guide you through understanding the honey bee as well as the steps to obtain your bees, tools and hives. This program will also cover harvesting, various hive products and how to use them. Participants will also learn about proper care and some of the common challenges facing beekeepers today. Each participant will receive a box lunch for the winter seminar, a copy of First Lessons in Beekeeping and a one-year membership to the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association. As a bonus, all participants will have the opportunity to participate in a follow-up, hands-on class at a nearby apiary on March 11. \$65.00

Click here for more information and to register.

BEGINNING JANUARY 21

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association
and UGA Extension Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
2023 Southeast Georgia Fundamentals of
Beekeeping Course
Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
2 Canebrake Rd
Savannah, GA 31419



New or aspiring beekeeper? Our 2023 Southeast Georgia Beekeeping Course is an excellent opportunity to learn what it takes to keep healthy hives. This seven-Saturday course consists of lectures and hands-on demonstrations covering honey bee biology, hive management, bee forage, honey extraction, and more! Classes are led by instructors Keith Fielder, Putnam County Extension Coordinator, Dr. Tim Davis, Chatham County Extension Coordinator, and Laura Liu of the Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association. 2023 Class Schedule:

- January 21st 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- February 25th: Southeast Georgia Beekeeping Symposium fundamentals classes, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- March 18th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- April 15th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- May 20th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- June 17th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- July 15th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Click here for more information and to register.

JANUARY 21

Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association
2023 Beekeeping Short Course
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Walker County Ag Center
10052 US Hwy 27 N. Rock Spring, GA 30739

Anyone can be a beekeeper, whether you live in the city or in the country. Bees require very little care, take up only a small space, and the cost of starting is much less than comparable hobbies. Topics covered during the course will include: the honey bee colony; equipment assembly; where to get bees; smoker lighting; hive manipulation; extracting honey, and more. For new members, course completion includes a complimentary 2023 Northwest Georgia Beekeeper Membership. The registration fee before January 16 is \$40. Registration the day of is \$45 at the door. Children under 18 are FREE (must be accompanied by an adult). Space is limited. **Click here** to register now.

Continued on following page

2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses



Continued from previous page

JANUARY 21

Potato Creek Beekeepers Club 2023 Beekeeping Short Course

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Spalding County Extension Office
865 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA 30223



Come learn about the fascinating world of honey bees and beekeeping at Potato Creek Beekeepers Club's annual Beekeeping Short Course. It's Beekeeping 101 for beginners, and it's only \$25 to attend. Learn everything you need to know to get started with your own colony of honeybees! **To register, call the Spalding Co. Extension Office**, during normal business hours, at (770) 467-4225. Space is limited, so sign up early!

JANUARY 28

Coweta Beekeeper Association One-Day Introduction to Beekeeping Course

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

UGA Extension Coweta County
255 Pine Rd., Newnan, GA 30263



Our one-day beekeeping course is for new beekeepers. It will take you through your first year of beekeeping, from preparing for the arrival of your colonies to preparing them to survive winter. This course is also an excellent refresher for beekeepers to gain more confidence in working with their bees. During the day, you will have the opportunity to meet members of the Coweta Beekeeper Association, and there will be plenty of time for questions. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are included for the day. The Intro course fee includes 2023 CBA membership for the year, the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, one club t-shirt, breakfast, lunch, & snacks. Early registration is \$50 per/person, \$10 each additional family member. Registration day of class is \$55, please bring cash or check only. **Click here** to register.

JANUARY 28

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Introduction to Honey Bees and Beekeeping Short Course

8:40 – 4:30

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
3180 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA 30305



Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping from MABA's panel of experts. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees, even if a hive is not in your immediate future.

Setting up new hives must be done in the spring, generally from March to May. This course is offered in January to give potential beekeepers time to order bees and equipment and prepare a site for hives. Since the course takes place in January, our classroom course will not involve live bees. During the spring and summer months, hands-on experience with live bees will be available to all Beekeeping Course students through the MABA Hive Inspection program. Short course participants will receive current information on beekeeping and how to get started, first class presentations by educators in entomology and botany as well as experienced urban beekeepers, a copy of Dr. Keith S. Delaplane's book *First Lessons In Beekeeping*, and a one-year membership to MABA. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There will also be a beekeeping supply vendor onsite. \$110. **Click here** for more information and to register.



FEBRUARY 4

Lake Country Beekeepers Association 2023 Beekeeping Course

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sparta Hancock County Library
8984 East Broad Street, Sparta, GA



Beekeeping Course topics will include: Honey Bee Biology, Beekeeping Tools & Equipment, A Calendar Year in the Bee Yard, and Care & Challenges of Honey Bee Management. The cost is \$25 per person or family and includes Lake Country Beekeepers Association 2023 Membership PLUS admission to a follow-up in-hive event at Morgan Apiaries in late March. **Register with your email at lakecountrybees@gmail.com**

FEBRUARY 11

Tri-County Beekeepers of Georgia FUNDamentals of Beekeeping 2023

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mt Carmel Baptist Church
2405 GA-51, Lula, GA 30554



Are you a new beekeeper or a beekeeper with limited experience? We would love to help you get started in the right direction to be the best beekeeper you can be. This course is a one-day program designed to get you started on the right foot. It is taught by some of Georgia's leading beekeepers. We have a great lineup of instructors including journeyman beekeepers and master beekeepers. This is one of the best programs in the state and also provides you with a membership in a club that will support you all year long with knowledgeable beekeepers and many hands-on opportunities to work with bees. \$50. **Click here** for more information.



FEBRUARY 11

West Georgia Beekeepers Association Adult Short Course in Beekeeping

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 145
6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway, Douglasville, GA



In addition to our introductory beekeeping instruction, program attendees also will receive a copy of Dr. Keith S. Delaplane's book *First Lessons In Beekeeping* (one copy per family), handouts, breakfast, lunch and a snack, and an annual membership to West Georgia Beekeepers Association. \$60/person, \$65/family (after 1/31/23 cost increases to \$70/person, \$75/family)

To register, mail name, address, phone number and email to: WGBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5053, Douglasville, GA 30154 Make checks payable to West GA Beekeepers Association.

2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses



Continued from previous page

FEBRUARY 25

SOWEGA 2023 Beekeeping School for Beginners

9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Albany State University West Campus

Allied Health Bldg J133

2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707



Students will receive a certificate of completion, book and handouts. Registration cost includes a one year membership with the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club, a club decal and one free hive tool per family. Among the topics students will learn are: history of beekeeping; how to get started in beekeeping; supplies and safety; types of bees and their benefits; pests and diseases and their control methods; apiary establishment; hive inspections; splitting hives; predators; and harvesting honey. Lunch and a drink will be served to students. Anyone with allergies or additional needs may want to bring their own. Cost is \$45.00 per person. (non club member) \$35 per additional family member; \$25 per club member

Click here for more information and to register.

MARCH (DATE TBD)

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Beekeeping 101 Class

The HOGBA Beekeeping 101 class is intended to be an introductory class for those interested in becoming beekeepers.

Officers and members of HOGBA conduct the one-day class. The first 4 – 4 ½ hours consist of a lecture/discussion. A PowerPoint presentation is utilized to present the following topics:

- **Bee Behavior** – This includes the types of bees in the colony, the duties of each type, and the life cycle of each. By using videos, attendees are able to observe bearding, orientation flights, wash boarding, swarming, and robbing behaviors.
- **Benefits and Products of Beekeeping** – The emphasis is on the significant products (honey, beeswax, pollen)
- **Duties of a Beekeeper** – A yearly calendar that states what tasks the beekeeper might expect to do each month. This section also includes the common pests (hive beetles, varroa, and wax moths) and pest management.
- **Safety** – This includes sting prevention, personal safety equipment and smoker safety.
- **Nuc Installation** – Attendees are provided instructions on how to install a nucleus colony
- **Apiary Time** – Attendees are provided one - two hours of hands-on time in an apiary. Attendees are paired up with an instructor and a hive inspection is conducted. This is always the most exciting time as many have never been this close to bees before.

HOGBA's 101 class will be in March of 2023. **Check out our website for more information and to register: www.hogba.org**



MARCH 18

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County 2023 Bee School

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This class will be geared to the beginner beekeeper, but anyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book, one year club membership, vendor catalogs, lunch, and gifts from the hive. Complete details to be announced. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/gwinnettbeekeepers/>

MARCH 11 & 18

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association 2023 Introduction to Beekeeping Bee School

On Saturday March 11th, we will have a full day of in-class instruction on essential topics to get you started and ensure success in the wonderful world of beekeeping. On the following Saturday, the 18th, we will have a bonus field day where you will get hands-on experience in the apiary. This will also be an excellent refresher event for seasoned beekeepers. More detailed information will be posted on our website soon at:

<http://negabeekeeping.com>



BEGINNING MARCH 25

2023 Lanier Bee Barn Beekeeping Boot Camps

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.: March 25, April 29,

May 27, June 24, July 29 and August 29

Lanier Bee Barn

742 Lords Mill Road, Commerce, GA 30529

The Beekeeping Boot Camp course will include classroom time and actual hands-on in our apiary. Topics will include: biology of the honey bee, hive hardware and tools, hive placement, swarms, making splits, pests and treatments, extracting honey, and preparing for winter. Bring your veil and gloves if you have them. If not, they can be purchased at Lanier Bee Barn. You do NOT have to currently have bees to attend the class! This will give you valuable insight into beekeeping so when you get your bees, you will be better prepared. Cost: \$99 (lunch included) Payment required to reserve your spot. For more information, visit: lanierbeebarn.com/beekeepingbootcamp

Got a short course coming up in February or March (or beyond) that we missed?

Let us know about it! And as always, continue to share your beekeeping experiences, photos and club activities with us. We appreciate your articles and updates. Send them to: gbanewsletters@gmail.com

IN OUR FEBRUARY ISSUE:

How do you keep records for your beekeeping?



Do you use a notebook? Phone app? Printed inspection sheets? Inquiring minds want to know what works for you. We are featuring record-keeping in our February issue. **Let us know what record keeping methods help you manage your apiary and bees.** Send your story to: gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Above from top: Getting ready to tuck the bees in for the cold spell. Langstroth hives get strapped down to their concrete stands. A previous high-wind event toppled this Warre hive.

Snug as a Bug

By Kathy Bourn

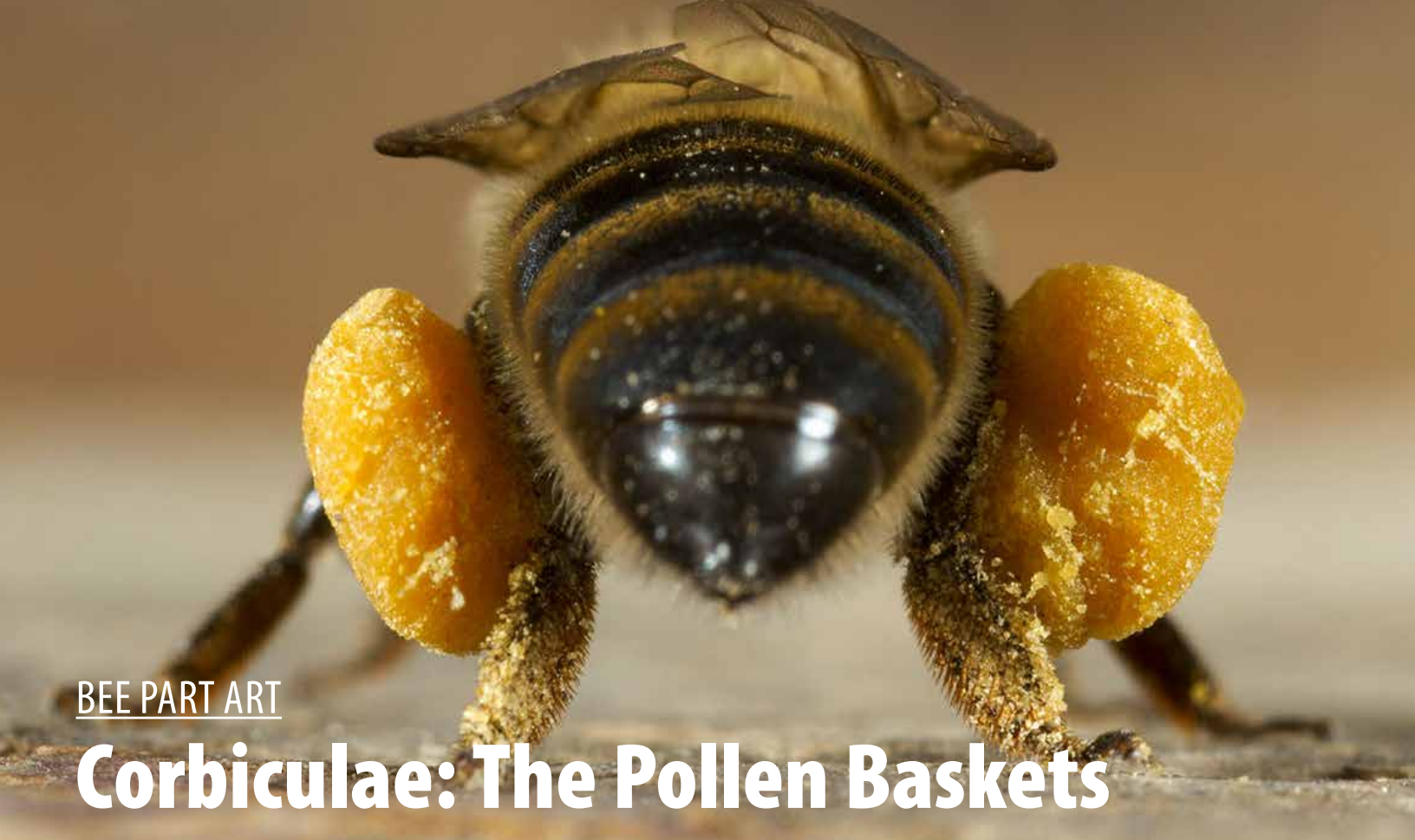
I am well aware of the fact that this action probably does more good for me than it does for my bees. But with temperatures getting down to the single digits in northeast Georgia with high winds, I wanted to tuck my bees in somehow for this unusually cold weather. I don't worry about the top bars, long langs, and Layens hives as much because they are made with thicker wood. The poor Langstroths only have 3/4 of an inch of pine for insulation.

Being in Georgia, I don't buy commercial bee cozies or anything like that so I had to improvise. I have a few furniture blankets that worked well but then I had to raid my stash of old blankets. I thought they could help as a wind break if nothing else.

I was worried about the high wind more than anything

because the Langstroths sit in the middle of a field. They sit on homemade concrete stands so I normally strap them down to the stand. This worked well during the last high-wind event that my hives endured. The only one that toppled over was my Warre hive which was not strapped down. Since then, I've put latches on those boxes so they will at least stay together if they go over. And this time, even the Warre got strapped to its wood stand.

Maybe it's just my guilt for sitting in a nice warm house while the weather is raging, but I hope my bees get some advantage from having these blankies. I tend to think that my animals are more sensitive to the cold and wind than they probably are, but my ducks and chickens don't seem to mind their insulated poultry coop. 🐝



BEE PART ART

Corbiculae: The Pollen Baskets

By Kathy Bourn

In the early 1800s, when seeing honey bees carrying their pollen loads, beekeepers coined the term “pollen basket.” They probably liked the idea of a bee carrying home her groceries in a cute little basket. Of course, there is no basket really. Rather, a much more fascinating way of carrying goods is at work.

Honey bees, along with bumble bees, stingless bees, and orchid bees, are considered corbiculate bees. This means their hind legs have a mechanical adaptation that allows them to carry loads – usually of pollen. Called the corbicula, it is a smooth cavity on the tibia of the hind leg and is surrounded by a ring of hairs. (Other types of bees have scopae on their legs or abdomens which are dense hairs that are perfect for holding small grains of pollen.)

To get the pollen to the corbicula, the bee puts a little nectar on her forelegs and then brushes the pollen from its body and moves it to its back legs. Once there, it can use the pressing mechanism of the tibia and the basitarsus to create a compact ball of pollen. Once pressed, it is transferred to the corbicula on the outer side of the hind leg and held in place by the ring of hairs. Using their corbiculae, honey bees can carry large pollen pellets. The average pollen pellet weighs 7.9mg. With one on each leg, that would make it about 35% of a bee’s body weight.

The corbicula has to be able to accomplish two opposite tasks. It has to hold the pollen firmly in place during flight but also then allow the pollen to easily be released once back at the hive. This is aided by the fact that pollen pellets are viscoelastic, meaning they are both sticky and elastic. **Researchers at Georgia Tech’s**

Photo: Heidi And Hans-Juergen Koch/Minden Pictures

College of Engineering have studied how honey bees work with pollen pellets. They hope to discover new ways to manufacture and manipulate soft viscoelastic materials.

Unlike nectar, the honey bee does not offload the pollen to a house bee. Instead, it braces against the outside of a cell and then presses the corbicula against the inside of the cell. Using a sawing motion, the bee pushes the pollen pellet into the cell. The honey bee is able to do this on both pollen baskets at the same time.

Given the efficiency and diligence of corbiculate bees, UPS and FedEx could learn a few things about collecting, carrying, and distributing cargo from honey bees. 🐝



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Bee Feeder

By Kathy Bourn

What are my wacky bees up to now? I walked out to my garden on a mild sunny December day and discovered not birds at the bird feeder – but bees. I'd noticed one or two honey bees at the feeder the day before, but now the girls were all over it.

The feeder is about 300 feet from my hives and hangs in a Chinese Pistash tree in the garden. This is the first year I've had it out and I put an assortment of birdseed in it in November. Some of the seeds at the entrance got wet so I thought that might have been the attraction, but now the bees are inside the feeder.

A couple of bees have something on their pollen baskets but the majority seem to leave empty-legged. Much of the seed is kicked out onto the ground where more honey bees rifle through it and are joined by other types of bees.

My bees work very hard every day to educate me. On this subject, I learned that they are likely foraging for corn dust. This time of year they are searching for anything that looks like pollen or might have any pollen in it and corn dust has a small amount. Their ability to find substances that look like pollen can be both good and bad. For instance, they may also pick up sawdust that does them no good or little yellow ant bait pellets that can do them harm.

I opened up the top of the bird feeder so the bees flying inside could escape. I may end up making this my new pollen feeder since its popularity has already gone viral. 🐝



Toward Saving the Honeybee

Gunther Hauk

Book review by **David Hinton**

I've often heard it said: "If you get two beekeepers together, you'll always have two opinions on how to do something." Time and experience have taught me the wisdom of that observation, but after reading Gunther Hauk's book *Toward the Saving the Honey Bee*, I would add this: "If you get two beekeepers together and one of them is a biodynamic beekeeper, you will have 10 ways to do things."

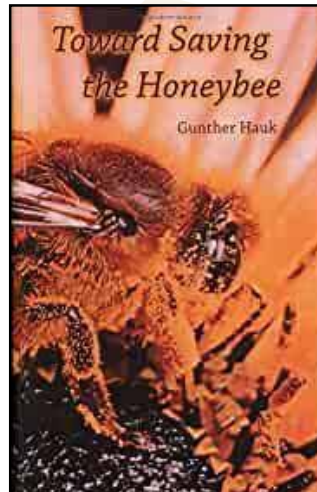
When I first started perusing this book as a potential review subject, my impression of this slim eighty-one-page volume printed on 5x9 paper is that it is barely a book. After reading it, I am inclined to call it a manifesto, which is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "A written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer." In this case, it is a manifesto of biodynamic beekeeping and stems from the thought system of the prolific early twentieth-century esoteric Austrian writer Rudolf Steiner. Steiner is best known as the founder of the popular Waldorf education approach to learning and of biodynamic agriculture, from which comes bio-dynamic beekeeping.

While not dismissing the threat posed by the varroa mite and other pests and illnesses, Hauk believes that they are not the primary cause of the threats to honey bee health—the problem largely rests with modern beekeeping and its practices. In his introduction, Hauk writes that "The honey bee is screaming to us through its overwhelming illness and fatality statistics, that *it is not merely a mite or some other invader, but in fact our whole approach to its existence* that has continued to weaken it and caused its health and resistance to deteriorate." (Italics by Hauk)

Biodynamic beekeeping as espoused by Hauk proposes that beekeeping practices must as closely as possible follow that which is found in nature itself. Bees should be allowed to act as bees do in the wild, not as humans want them to act. Hauk goes on to make a statement that he acknowledges will "easily cause great discomfort if not aggression: the single most serious factor causing the lowered state of health and vitality of the honeybee: . . . is artificial Queen production."

Hauk notes that if a queen is killed, perhaps accidentally by the beekeeper, the hive will produce an "emergency queen — not a full-fledged one — but one who can fill in until an authentic queen is raised. Usually within a year, and frequently in the same summer, a "real queen will quietly replace the stand-in."

Because Hauk so strongly indicts current practices, I am going to quote him at some length:




"In beekeeping, however, we have raised the emergency queen to the level of a real queen so that currently millions of queens are raised on worker-larvae, then sold and shipped all over the continent... So already from the start, the hive begins with an emergency queen! In addition, it is currently suggested that beekeepers replenish their hives with a new queen every year or two, in order to keep the vigor and usefulness of the colony. Ironically, it is this very process that prevents the aging and maturing process of the queen bee and her workers from achieving the very intimacy and strength of connection that does provide vitality, energy, resourcefulness, and health!"

After reading the above, it should come as no surprise that Hauk also opposes any

beekeeper's efforts to prevent swarming, which he refers to as one of "the most rejuvenating, revitalizing activities in the life cycle of the hive." I have to admit that his arguments on swarming make some sense since it is such a natural activity of the honey bee and is very, very difficult to prevent. Aren't we doing it out of a selfish human desire for maximum honey production? And while we console ourselves by saying we are preventing the bees from committing suicide, believing that they will be unable to survive outside of the hive bodies that we provide, how do we know that they won't ultimately end up in a perfectly inhabitable hollow tree trunk somewhere? So... regardless of what you think of his arguments, Hauk does make you stop and ponder what we are doing.

And plastic in a hive? FORGET IT!

A German immigrant who came to the United States in 1996, Hauk has committed his adult life to practicing what he preaches, including 26 years as a biodynamic gardening teacher in Germany and then as a biodynamic beekeeper at the 41-acre Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary on the banks of the Little River in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. I invite you to visit its interesting website at: spikenardfarm.org 

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! 🐝

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	gabeeseecretary@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 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, December 20th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program consisted of our annual potluck Christmas party and silent auction. Members donated items such as a swarm trap, honey jars, bee-themed socks, birdhouses, plaques, etc. We raised \$216 from the silent auction. The 2022 HOGBA Beekeeper of the Year was **John Keys**. Officers for 2023 are **Doug Romans**, president, **Anita Curry**, vice-president, **Amanda Hayes**, secretary, **Emily Heath**, treasurer, and **Kathy Sellers** and **Frank Grove** as at large board members. Members enjoyed socializing as well as all the delicious foods. Please join us on January 17, 2023, for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 PM. The regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org.



HOGBA President Jonathan Hayes (right) presents HOGBA Beekeeper of the Year, John Keys with a plaque.

Tri-County Beekeepers

Tri-County Beekeepers met for our annual Holiday Pot Luck this month. We had more food than we could shake a stick at, and our members made the club so very proud with the many beautiful entries in the honey and artisan show judged by the meticulous **Gail Dean**. A unique accordion spinner card was awarded best in show.

January's program will be with **Dr. Keith DeLaplaine** presenting an overview of his new book "Crop Pollination by Bees: Evolution, Ecology, Conservation, and Management Volume 1". We have a mentoring dinner at 5 pm that same evening, and club hive inspections led by a certified beekeeper at 6:30 pm before the meeting (weather permitting).

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest club events and news: <https://www.facebook.com/Tricountybeekeepersga/>.

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers December meeting was all about good food, good friends, and good times. Our annual potluck meal was enhanced by an introduction of **Sierra Cannon**, the new Hart County UGA extension agent. She let all our members know about how the extension office can help with many aspects of bee forage.

We also honored our LHBA lifetime members. **Randal and Sharion Kerlin** were two of the four beekeepers who started our club a decade ago. They were joined by another lifetime member and mentor to us all, **Condel McKenzie**.



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association lifetime members (l to r) Randal and Sharion Kerlin, and Condel McKenzie. New Hart County UGA Extension agent Sierra Cannon presents to the club.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club had a booth at the annual **Maxeys Christmas Parade** in Maxeys, Georgia. Attending were **Blaine Everson**, **Cory Momany** and **Joe Conti**. We had a Christmas Party and officer elections at our regular meeting on December 19th.



Blaine Everson and Cory Momany staff the Oglethorpe County Bee Club's booth at the Maxeys Christmas Parade

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		Jan. 9	Preparing Hives To Make Spring Honey – Steve Page	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				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@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)		Jan. 17	"Why Are So Many Drones Poor Quality?" – Garrett Slater, Purdue University	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		Jan. 9	"Crop Pollination by Bees: Evolution, Ecology, Conservation, and Management Volume 1" – Dr. Keith S. DeLaplaine presenting an overview of his new book.	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.)		Jan. 19	Bob Binnie	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.*

Word Search Buzzle



The Hive and the Honey Bee

UFWLAIBRVRWALYOSSISUS
EQOWKTHCEHZDQULEGSPY
JYRWIKENIMMHXPUGQBDR
OHKEECXVLBXIKFQUEENU
ONEOWFALEYFVSHALLOWP
LPRHYSGBOXGECAGEIFMT
QQXVLLOPHEMTEDEATHVS
STINGINJQPDOZDNWRECC
CFWMOISTUREOVAETCCOF
CHRCCE DAMHOLMZXROWMF
OSNADEEPDSZSCLXHEZBP
RWTNMERIIRUHREDUCERM
BAUDOEA AFNOZOB OCVIWM
IRSLIHQRQJSNMNNUCSAW
CMUEQRZYTAQEESESKYXD
USSRHLUREHBDCWKYBYWZ
LBJANTENNAEYHTOWNIXN
ARENTRANCEMQQBEEHIVE
ACAYVSPLITEBOTTLLESXL
RZNC HUNKRHWTMEDIUMLT

Print this page and see how many of these words you can find!



corbicula	hivetool	entrance	split
moisture	antennae	beehive	sting
shallow	reducer	hexagon	cage
worker	bottles	insect	legs
candle	apiary	medium	lure
feeder	dearth	queen	veil
drone	honey	frame	nuc
syrup	death	deep	box
comb	chunk	swarm	wax



Spilling *The* Honey

FEBRUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish you all the brightest things for this new year – whether they be new friends or family members, new apiaries, or new bees.

If it's new beekeeping connections and acquaintances you are seeking, then GBA's spring conference and artisan show is the place to be. Our conference planning committee is completing preparations for this event scheduled for later this month. Vendor set up, the GBA Board Meeting, and dinner will happen on February 17th, followed by our conference on the 18th in Macon, Georgia. This is where we were last year, and we had great reviews for the location and the food at the Hatcher Conference Center within Middle Georgia State University. **Please register for the conference**, and try to join us for Friday night's dinner with Mississippi State University beekeeping extension specialist **Dr. Jeff Harris**, who will be our featured speaker.

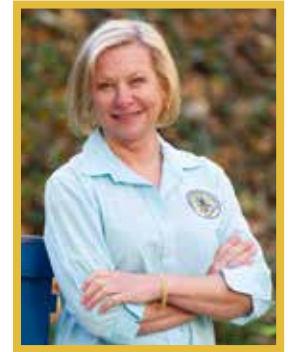
We welcome all the new leadership within our local clubs across the state. Please watch for an email from GBA so that we can gather all the new officers' names and contact information. Also, in the next few weeks, local club presidents will receive a starter package with ideas and plans which you may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

This is another great edition of our *Spilling the Honey* newsletter, which includes a great article by **Kathy Bourn** titled **Anatomy of a Beekeeping Course** (page 9), plus the start of a new series called **Outstanding Beekeepers in Georgia** (page 16-17). This is an excellent contribution created and written by **Linda Tillman**. Each month she'll introduce readers to a Beekeeper of the Year from local clubs around our state. This month's column features Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year **Ed Morgan**. If you would like to see your club's Beekeeper of the Year featured here, send his/her name and contact information to beekeeperlinda@gmail.com.

As always, we need and love to see photos of what you did with the GBA License Plate Grant money, club news and anything which you would like to share.

Looking forward to getting together and seeing you in Macon!

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

REGISTER TODAY!



**20
23**

SPRING
CONFERENCE
& ARTISAN SHOW

FEB 17 & 18

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
MACON, GA**

How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee Members:

Committee Chair Julia Mahood
 GBA President Gina Gallucci
 GBA Vice President Derrick Fowler
 GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman
 GBA Secretary Mark Shields
 Bob Binnie
 Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.



will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

How are license plate proceeds funds being used? [See 2022 Plate Proceeds Wrap-up on the following page.](#) >

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	gabeeseecretary@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



2022 Plate Proceeds Wrap-up

By **Julia Mahood**, Chairperson, GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

There's no doubt that GBA's "Save the Honey Bee" license plate has been an overwhelming success, thanks to the hard-working members of our organization and the many citizens of Georgia who support GBA with their tag purchases.

Looking through the list of projects funded by license plate proceeds gave me an overwhelming feeling of admiration for the amazing members of our organization. You give so freely of your time and energy to support beekeeping in our state. It's truly awe-inspiring!

From January through November of 2022, GBA has received \$149,194.00 in plate proceeds. (We have not received proceeds from December yet.) In the calendar year 2022, GBA distributed \$122,915.27 in grants to members. The vast number of these grants have gone to local clubs for things like speaker fees, observation hives, or materials for bee schools. GBA has also been able to fund projects at our state universities, including UGA Entomology, UGA Vet School, Georgia Tech, and East Georgia State College. We also spend funds supporting the speakers for our two conferences. And very importantly, we spend some of the funds on advertising to promote the plate, which is allowed by law. Lastly, I would like to give a tremendous shout-

out to **Sophia Price**, who has chaired this committee since the beginning of 2019. She has logged many hours in the past four years, doing a super job of outreach, organizing, running meetings, and record keeping. If you see her, give her a much-deserved pat on the back! 🐝



Some of the things the Gwinnett Beekeepers used funds for are materials for a display at a fair, an observation hive, and funding to pay honey judges at their club honey show. They also used funds to purchase books for their club library. (Photo credit: Mike Conner)



For the last two years, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association has hosted an afternoon of beekeeping education for a local camp. Fifteen kids and three chaperones attended in 2022. This year we plan to host two city camps as well. The license plate grant paid for kids' beekeeping jackets and gloves. (Photo credit Georgia Zumwalt)



20 23

SPRING CONFERENCE & ARTISAN SHOW

FEB 17 & 18

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ROBERT F. HATCHER, SR.
CONFERENCE CENTER
MACON, GA**

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

CLICK HERE more details.

MEET OUR GBA SPRING CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

By **Linda Tillman**, GBA Past President

At the GBA one day conference in February, we will be treated to three outstanding speakers. If you haven't registered for the conference yet, **click here** to come to the conference and hear these beekeepers share their knowledge with us.

We will first meet **Dr. Jeff Harris** at dinner on Friday night where he is our featured speaker. Not many of us can say that we have kept bees for 50 years, but Dr. Harris is one of those people. He was introduced to bees by his uncle in the Appalachian mountains when he was eight years old. Not long after, he caught his first swarm and then and there, he became a beekeeper. He received his doctorate at LSU and worked in the bee lab there for over fifteen years. He is now a university beekeeping extension specialist at Mississippi State in Starkville, MS where he does extension work, teaches, and conducts research.

In a 2015 article in *Bee Culture*, Dr. Harris was quoted as saying, "My top three reasons for honey bee colony death are Varroa mites, Varroa mites and Varroa mites." He has spent much of his beekeeping trying to develop bees that are resistant to the Varroa mite.

Dr. Harris is also an avid bird watcher and has served as president of his local Audubon society. His interests led him to offer a class at Mississippi State titled: All About Birds and Bees. He finds both interests to be stress-relieving and good ways to be out in nature.

To learn more about Dr. Harris and his work, you can watch these videos on YouTube:

YouTube • **A talk about varroa sensitive hygienic bees**
• **How to get started in beekeeping and how to stay in beekeeping**

You can hear him in person at the **GBA Spring Conference** at the dinner and then on Saturday at the conference. At dinner his talk title is *Jeff Harris' Beekeeping Observations: From Hobbyist to Researcher*. On Saturday he will give a talk on *Issues With Varroa Management Plans*.



Dr. Jeff Harris

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2023 **SPRING CONFERENCE**
& ARTISAN SHOW

SPRING CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Continued from previous page >

Kamon Reynolds, owner of Tennessee Bees, will be a keynote speaker at our conference. He started beekeeping at 14 years old when he met a Tennessee beekeeper at a farmer's market. Kamon was so interested in the honey he got to sample - wildflower and black locust - that he went home and talked his dad into letting him get five hives of bees.



Kamon Reynolds

As he got older, he knew he wanted to make a career of this. Kamon is a self-taught beekeeper who mostly learned on his own from reading books about beekeeping. He met Laurel, his wife, when he was 18. She already was a beekeeper when they met. They married and began a beekeeping life together. He took a truck driving job to make ends meet, but gave that up when he had around 200 hives.

Kamon is well known for **his YouTube channel** which he started about four years ago. His wife, Laurel, was the push and inspiration for him to create a social media presence. He posts lots of short videos full of tips and tricks for beekeepers. He has an easy way about him as he presents and his video topics speak to most of us who inspect our backyard hives. He has at least three videos on how to light a smoker and keep it lit! He offers live chats regularly and has visitors from all over the world. In the process he has gathered a large following of thousands of viewers. He says his Internet presence has been a gift to him because he learns a lot in the course of interaction with his followers.

Kamon started the **Hive Life conference** two years ago. This gathering is a huge affair with about ninety vendors and a program of speakers. In 2023, it was a sold-out event. He runs it differently than we do at GBA in that he gets sponsors to pay for each of the activities and speakers at the conference.

At the GBA spring conference, Kamon will give two talks: *Seven Ways to Split Bees* and *Dialing in Varroa Control for Better Beekeeping*.

Last, but definitely NOT least, **Dr. Keith Delaplane** will be a keynote speaker. Familiar to many of us Georgia beekeepers, Dr. Delaplane is not only a beekeeper but also an artist. One of his paintings graces the cover of his book, *First Lessons in Beekeeping*. His artistic abilities are also evident as he speaks because he weaves his words in beautiful ways.




Dr. Keith Delaplane

Keith Delaplane is a professor of entomology and the director of the honey bee program at the University of Georgia where he and his students study honey bee pollination, disease ecology, and social evolution.

He is the author of several bee books. His *First Lessons in Beekeeping* is the basis for the certified beekeeper testing in Georgia. He is author of the 2000 book *Crop Pollination by Bees* and in 2021 the first of a two-volume second edition of the same title was released. Keith was lead editor of the 2020 edition of *ABC and XYZ in Bee Culture*, an encyclopedia of bee biology and beekeeping in continuous print by the AI Root Company since 1876. His upcoming books include *Crop Pollination by Bees, 2d ed.*, Volume 2 by CABI Intl and *Honey Bee Social Evolution* by Johns Hopkins University Press. In 2014 he was inducted into the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his research and education efforts in honey bee health and management throughout the UK.

If you haven't heard Keith speak before, you are in for a treat. Listening to him talk is the joy of listening to a good story teller. If you'd like to see Dr. Delaplane in his early days, you might enjoy this **YouTube playlist of Dr. Delaplane in the early 90s**. He is already lyrical in these presentations. Be sure to notice the suspenders. I loved these talks! Dr. Delaplane will speak to the spring conference on: *City Bees, Rural Bees - Special Considerations For Each Habitat*.

In addition to these keynote speakers, registrants will have the opportunity to hear breakouts presented by **Keith Fielder, Broadus Williams, Mary Lacksen, Bobby Thanepnon**, and **Mary Cahill-Roberts**. 

Have you registered? Do so today!



2023 | **SPRING**
CONFERENCE
& ARTISAN SHOW

THE GBA ARTISAN SHOW IS ABOUT THE SOUL OF THE BEEKEEPER

By **Linda Tillman**, a frequent entrant in the annual show

On New Year's day, amid resolutions, packing away holiday items, and writing thank you notes, my mind starts planning what I will enter in the GBA Artisan Show. One year I started even earlier when I made honey bourbon peach jam in July and saved several jars for the following February's artisan show (to no avail - it didn't even place!).

The spring artisan show is about the soul of the beekeeper. I love the artisan show because there is room to express yourself.

- Are you a **photographer** with a particularly expressive eye when you are setting up your shot? Is there a group of your photos that tell a story?
- Do you **bake with honey**? Breads, cakes, cookies, tarts are all ways in which you can use your honey to send your own personal message.
- **Are you a poet?** Poetry in all its forms - rhyming, blank verse, sonnets, sestina, villanelles - all are welcome. Writing poetry is a special way in which to express your feelings about the honey bee.

- All kinds of **needlework** are welcomed in the artisan show. I've entered cross-stitch or a quilting project just about every year.
- Are you an inventor? The **bee-gadget category** is just the place for your bee invention.

A popular creative endeavor at the artisan show is **mead-making**. Several alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage categories are on the list. I'm not a mead maker but I know it's a special art and we have many Georgia beekeepers who make delicious mead, beer, and other beverages.

The artisan show is also about **beeswax**. While the fall show is about beeswax blocks and candle-making, the artisan show in February is about **making art out of beeswax**. The judges want to see a floral arrangement in which all the flowers and the stems are made of beeswax, colored, scented, and created without a mold. Or if flowers are not your thing, you can make a sculpture from that mountain of beeswax you've been collecting and enter it into its own special category.

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20
23

SPRING
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& ARTISAN SHOW

ARTISAN SHOW

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Each entry into the artisan show requires an index card from the entrant. Here is your **opportunity to tell your story** in a creative way. Is this your grandmother's special holiday cake? Did you learn to sew sitting on your screened porch watching the bees? Did your beekeeping mentor encourage you to turn your original ideas into beekeeping gadgets? Put it on the index card that accompanies your entry.

Which of the many categories in the artisan show will you enter? The prizes for winning are bountiful. You get ribbons and money - generally first prize is \$100, second \$50. You get "bragging rights" if you choose to tell your friends. And the judges usually write comments to help you improve for the next show.

There are so many classes in the artisan show - **please go and look**. The link takes you to the rules and YOU MUST READ THEM CAREFULLY for the category in which you are entering.

There are seventeen arts and crafts categories, six beverage categories, five food categories and two beeswax categories. I'll bet you can find something that appeals to you. As for me, I've set my sights on at least five categories. Some of the most competitive among us try to enter every single category. But that will never be me. I love the culinary categories and the needlework categories and that's where I focus.

To see a wonderful playlist of videos that Kathy Bourn made of the artisan show entries during the pandemic, click here. One video explains how the judges manage the artisan show and the second is a montage of artisan show entries. Watch and be inspired to enter! 🐝



ARTISAN SHOW | TIPS & TRICKS

1. On your index card make sure there is room at the bottom right corner for a small sticker that the show secretary will give you to affix. If you write all the way to the edges, there won't be room.
2. Let the index card be your place to tell the story of your entry in a way that will connect with the judges.
3. **READ THE RULES**
4. **READ THE RULES**
5. **READ THE RULES**

Georgia Beekeeping Well Represented at **Hive Life 2023**

By Kathy Bourn

The 2023 Hive Life featured Youtube star speakers, a tremendous trade show, and a huge honey show.

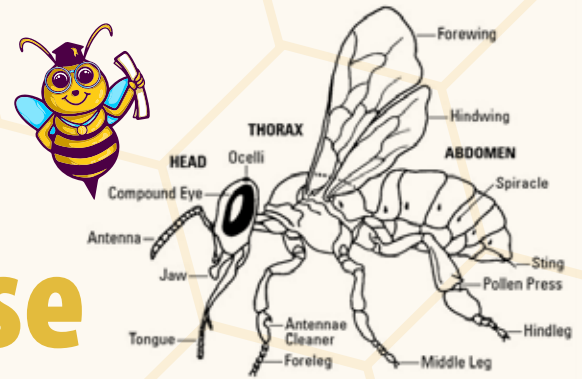
This was the third year for the beekeeping conference in Sevierville, Tennessee.

Georgia beekeepers were well represented with **Brutz English, Katie Goodman, Mary Cahill-Roberts, and Kara Bassett** running the honey show. Many GBA members won honors at the show and **Virginia Webb** walked away with the sweepstakes trophy.

Bob Binnie got the chance to personally talk with his fans and also share his beekeeping knowledge and stories with the more than 1,600 beekeepers in attendance. **Blue Ridge Honey Company** and **Rossman Apiaries** were two of the Georgia companies represented. They were part of the 94 vendor trade show that offered every beekeeping item imaginable. 🍯



Anatomy of a Great Beekeeping Course



By *Kathy Bourn*


Many GBA local clubs put on a beginning beekeeper course. The goals include getting those interested in beekeeping off to a good start while adding potential members to the club and educating the public about honey bees. If you dissect a good beekeeping short course, you'll see some key components that make it successful.


Dan Long and the **Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association** put together a course on January 14th that had it all. One of the hardest things for clubs to find is a good facility. EPBA partnered with the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at UGA in Athens. The botanical garden provided a central location and the botanical and beekeeping partnership allowed EPBA to get help with advertising for the course.

Now, most clubs don't have this type of facility available but other aspects of this course can be duplicated. Getting the best speakers who can clearly communicate the basics of beekeeping is a must. EPBA was able to get UGA Ga. Master Beekeepers but most clubs have members who are just as good at presenting information about hive equipment, basic bee biology, and pest management to beginners.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association puts on one of the biggest courses in the state. The January 28th course taught more than 120 students. Putting together a large course takes more space and resources but it can also serve more students. Julia Mahood, Linda Tillman, and Claressa Lucas have coordinated the MABA course for years and they really have it down. Months ahead of the class, they get speakers lined up, the program set, the space booked, and the food ordered.

Below is a list of some of the features that experienced short course organizers have come up with to create an educational and stimulating bee course. Please share any other great ideas your club has for a successful beginner beekeeping course.

 **EASY REGISTRATION** – This can be accomplished with the use of internet registration systems or simply having one person to directly contact. Students should be given all pertinent information ahead of the course so they are prepared when they walk in. Name tags are a hassle but they're a must-have. Also, make sure there are knowledgeable people greeting students.

 **COMFORTABLE FACILITY** – It's good to have enough space for everyone to sit and move easily along with tables that




Above: MABA president Jimmy Gatt welcomes more than 100 prospective future beekeepers to his



club's annual short course. Inset: Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers president Dan Long introduces UGA's Dr. Lewis Bartlett at the joint EPBA-UGA introduction to beekeeping course held in Athens.

allow students to take notes and eat lunch comfortably. Let them know where bathrooms are ahead of the start of the class. Kitchen facilities are a bonus but not required. Exterior signs pointing the way to the class are a big help.

 **DOOR PRIZES** – Everyone likes having the chance to win free stuff. This is fun to do at each break. Club members can donate beekeeping items they don't use and most of the bee supply companies will donate door prizes for a course.




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Anatomy of a Great **Beekeeping Course**



Above: (clockwise) Having an amazing facility like UGA's State Botanical Garden to host your course isn't a necessity, but it doesn't hurt! Dr. Keith Delaplane's First Lessons in Beekeeping makes a great goody bag giveaway for any prospective beekeeper. UGA-EPBA course attendees pore over catalogs. Door prize raffle items. MABA volunteers prepare 125 goody bags in advance of their club's short course.

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-  **GIFT BAGS** – More free stuff can also include information from The Honey Board, Pollinator Partnership, and Honey Bee Health Coalition. Organizations like these will send you publications for free or at minimal cost. Adding a first hive tool for these new beekeepers is a nice bonus. The bags can also include copies of beekeeping magazines. Those publications will send them for free if requested. Also, the big bee supply companies will send you the bags for free if you ask.
-  **BOOKS** – Many courses give students books such as Dr. Keith Delaplane's *First Lessons in Beekeeping* to get them started. Also, club members can donate their old beekeeping books to give away.
-  **BONUS MATERIAL** – Additional handouts give students reference material they can turn to after the class. This can be a binder filled with information about bee facts, record keeping, where to get bees, honey harvesting, beekeeping calendars, and bee plants. It's good to provide pens for everyone too and a way to take notes.
-  **CATALOGS** – Most bee supply companies will provide catalogs for your course and give you door prizes if you request them. This gives students a better idea of what equipment is available.

-  **VENDORS** – Local vendors give students a chance to see equipment, try on protective gear, and get advice. Many give students a chance to leave with their first bee hives.
-  **POSTERS AND VISUAL AIDS** – Posters showing honey bee life and other visual items such as hives and tools are things that students can look over while on a break. You can also have a display of the different products from the hive, maybe that your club members make and provide.
-  **BREAKS** – Students in a day-long course need several breaks. This also gives them a chance to talk with each other, visit the vendors, and sample kinds of honey if available.
-  **HONEY TASTING** – Many people don't realize the varied taste that honey has and the different forms of honey. You can give attendees a chance to taste the different liquid, creamed, and infused honey. It's nice if it is produced by your volunteers so attendees can ask them questions.
-  **DRINKS AND SNACKS** – It's good if these are set up out of the way so it doesn't disturb the presentations if someone gets up to get a drink or snack. If you serve coffee or tea, be sure to have some local honey available.

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Anatomy of a Great **Beekeeping Course**

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LUNCH WITH A BEEKEEPER – This idea came from MABA. They make sure students at each lunch table are seated with an experienced beekeeper so they can discuss beekeeping while they eat. It is always a participant favorite and allows time for one-on-one questions to be answered. MABA students also get a dessert treat made with honey.

SMOKER LIGHTING DEMONSTRATIONS – This helps get students comfortable with lighting a smoker and advises them on how to keep it lit and how to use it safely and effectively.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP – Most courses include a free, one-year membership to the GBA club offering the course or to whatever GBA club would be most convenient for the student.

RAFFLING A MENTOR – Club members can volunteer to be a mentor to a new beekeeper. This mentorship is then raffled off during the course and the mentor/mentee's contact information is exchanged. This idea came from Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association.

DEMONSTRATION VIDEOS – Some aspects of beekeeping are

difficult to show in a course. Videos showing honey harvesting, installing bees, and hive inspections can be useful. It works best to have a speaker there to answer questions after the video.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PANELS – It's good to conclude a course with a chance for students to ask all their questions to the speakers or other experienced beekeepers.

HIVE INSPECTIONS – Since most courses are at a time when beehives shouldn't be opened, future inspection days can be scheduled for students. This gives them a chance to see the inside of a hive and to see how an experienced beekeeper works with the bees. Probably the hardest thing to teach new beekeepers is to let them know what they are looking at when they open their hives

MULTI-DAY COURSES – Some clubs choose to spread the lessons out over several days. These classes can be more in-depth and coincide with the beekeeping calendar. It is more of a time commitment for volunteers, but it can be spread out using different club members at each session. 🐝



Above: (clockwise) UGA-EPBA course attendees learn about the many products of the hive. A packed house pays attention to presentations at the MABA short course. Having a vendor like Harold Lanier of Lanier Bee Barn on hand is a tremendous value add for course attendees. UGA's Jennifer Berry speaks to prospective beekeepers on varroa. MABA presenters Jimmy Gatt, Julia Mahood, Claressa Lucas, Linda Tillman, Bobby Chaisson and Brooke Vacovsky field questions. Course attendees sample a variety of honeys at the UGA-EPBA event.

Upcoming 2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses



FEBRUARY 4

Lake Country Beekeepers Association 2023 Beekeeping Course

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sparta Hancock County Library
8984 East Broad Street, Sparta, GA

Beekeeping Course topics will include: Honey Bee Biology, Beekeeping Tools & Equipment, A Calendar Year in the Bee Yard, and Care & Challenges of Honey Bee Management. The cost is \$25 per person or family and includes Lake Country Beekeepers Association 2023 Membership PLUS admission to a follow-up in-hive event at Morgan Apiaries in late March. **Register with your email at lakecountrybees@gmail.com**



FEBRUARY 11

Tri-County Beekeepers of Georgia FUNDamentals of Beekeeping 2023

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mt Carmel Baptist Church 2405 GA-51, Lula, GA 30554

Are you a new beekeeper or a beekeeper with limited experience? We would love to help you get started in the right direction to be the best beekeeper you can be. This course is a one-day program designed to get you started on the right foot. It is taught by some of Georgia's leading beekeepers. We have a great lineup of instructors including journeyman beekeepers and master beekeepers. This is one of the best programs in the state and also provides you with a membership in a club that will support you all year long with knowledgeable beekeepers and many hands-on opportunities to work with bees. \$50. **Click here** for more information.



FEBRUARY 11

West Georgia Beekeepers Association Adult Short Course in Beekeeping

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 145

6449 W. Veterans Memorial Highway, Douglasville, GA

In addition to our introductory beekeeping instruction, program attendees also will receive a copy of Dr. Keith S. Delaplane's book *First Lessons In Beekeeping* (one copy per family), handouts, breakfast, lunch and a snack, and an annual membership to West Georgia Beekeepers Association. \$60/person, \$65/family (after 1/31/23 cost increases to \$70/person, \$75/family) **To register, mail name, address, phone number and email to:** WGBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5053, Douglasville, GA 30154 Make checks payable to West GA Beekeepers Association.



FEBRUARY 18

Forsyth Beekeepers Club Bee School (Day 1)

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Georgia Army National Guard Armory, 100 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040

Presenters are local, experienced, certified beekeepers recognized by the UGA Master Beekeeper program. This will be a classroom setting (no live bees). A follow up hive side class will be April 15, 2023. This Day 1 of bee school helps prepare you for your bees. If you are interested in attending, it is encouraged that you read the book *First Lessons In Beekeeping* by Dr. Keith Deleplane. A few copies will be on hand at the school. Topics covered will include: honey bee life cycle and biology, equipment, protective gear, swarm and nectar management, disease and pests, feeding bees, basic hive inspections and more. Lunch and snacks are included.

To register, click here.



SOUTHEAST GEORGIA BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM

February 23rd-25th, 2023 at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
2 Canebrake Rd. Savannah, GA 31419



FEBRUARY 23-25

Southeast Georgia Beekeeping Symposium

9 a.m.- 4 p.m. (all three days)

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens
2 Canebrake Rd. Savannah, GA 31419

Join us for the inaugural Southeast Georgia Beekeeping Symposium, an educational event for beekeepers of the Lowcountry and Coastal Empire! On Thursday, qualified participants will have the opportunity to become a Certified Beekeeper through the University of Georgia Master Beekeeper Program. Join us Friday and Saturday for various beekeeping seminars—valuable for the beginner and advanced beekeeper alike! **Click here** for more details. **Register here.**



FEBRUARY 25 - APRIL 1

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association 2023 Beekeeping Course

2 p.m.- 4 p.m. (six Saturdays)

Oxbow Meadows, 3535 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, GA 31903

Spring Beekeeper Course presented by the Chattahoochee Valley Beekeeping Association, hosted by Oxbow Meadows, is holding a six-week course that will take you from a beginner to a beekeeper! \$100 per person, \$50 for immediate family. Includes classes, textbooks, handouts, one year membership with CVBA. For any additional questions, contact us at oxbowmeadows@columbusstate.edu or 706-507-8550. **To register, click here.**



FEBRUARY 25

Etowah River Beekeepers 2023 Bee School

8 a.m.- 4:15 p.m.

Clayton Homestead, 3465 Land Rd, Canton, GA 30114

Join us for our 2023 Bee School, to be held on Saturday, February 25 at Clayton Homestead. Lunch will be served. Bees will be available for pre-order at the event. **Click here** to register now! Registration includes 2023 membership in the Etowah River Beekeepers! The class agenda includes: Introduction to beekeeping, hardware and equipment, clothing and tools How to locate and set up your apiary, honeybee lifecycle and anatomy, purchasing/installing bees, swarms, treatment of diseases and pests, bee nutrition and more. If weather permits, we will head out into the apiary for some hands-on observation! **Click here to register.**



Upcoming 2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses



Continued from previous page

FEBRUARY 25

Henry County Beekeepers Association

Intro to Beekeeping Course

9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Georgia Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Road, McDonough, GA

Come learn about the fascinating world of honey bees and beekeeping! On Saturday February 25, 2023, the Henry County Beekeepers Club is putting on it's Intro to Beekeeping course. It's Beekeeping 101 for beginners, and it's only \$25 to attend. Learn everything you need to know to get started with your own colony of honey bees. To register, call (678) 983-7698 or email tombonnell@bellsouth.net. Space is limited, so sign up early!

Henry County
Beekeepers Association



- **Benefits and Products of Beekeeping** – The emphasis is on the significant products (honey, beeswax, pollen)
- **Duties of a Beekeeper** – A yearly calendar that states what tasks the beekeeper might expect to do each month. This section also includes the common pests (hive beetles, varroa, and wax moths) and pest management.
- **Safety** – This includes sting prevention, personal safety equipment and smoker safety.
- **Nuc Installation** – Attendees are provided instructions on how to install a nucleus colony
- **Apiary Time** – Attendees are provided one - two hours of hands-on time in an apiary. Attendees are paired up with an instructor and a hive inspection is conducted. This is always the most exciting time as many have never been this close to bees before. HOGBA's 101 class will be in March of 2023. **Check out our website for more information and to register: www.hogba.org**

FEBRUARY 25

SOWEGA 2023 Beekeeping School for Beginners

9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Albany State University West Campus, Allied Health Bldg J133

2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707

Students will receive a certificate of completion, book and handouts. Registration cost includes a one year membership with the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club, a club decal and one free hive tool per family. Among the topics students will learn are: history of beekeeping; how to get started in beekeeping; supplies and safety; types of bees and their benefits; pests and diseases and their control methods; apiary establishment; hive inspections; splitting hives; predators; and harvesting honey. Lunch and a drink will be served to students. Anyone with allergies or additional needs may want to bring their own. Cost is \$45.00 per person. (non club member) \$35 per additional family member; \$25 per club member. **Click here** for more information and to register.



MARCH 18

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County 2023 Bee School

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hebron Baptist Church, Module G, Dacula, GA

This class will be geared to the beginner beekeeper, but anyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book, one year club membership, vendor catalogs, lunch, and gifts from the hive. Complete details to be announced. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/gwinnettbeekeepers/>

MARCH 11 & 18

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association

2023 Introduction to Beekeeping Bee School

On Saturday March 11th, we will have a full day of in-class instruction on essential topics to get you started and ensure success in the wonderful world of beekeeping. On the following Saturday, the 18th, we will have a bonus field day where you will get hands-on experience in the apiary. This will also be an excellent refresher event for seasoned beekeepers. More detailed information will be posted on our website soon at: <http://negabeekeeping.com>



MARCH 18

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Beekeeping 101 Class

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Argene Claxton Canning Plant

1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA

The HOGBA Beekeeping 101 class is intended to be an introductory class for those interested in becoming beekeepers. Officers and members of HOGBA conduct the one-day class. The first 4 – 4 ½ hours consist of a lecture/discussion. A

PowerPoint presentation is utilized to present the following topics:

- **Bee Behavior** – This includes the types of bees in the colony, the duties of each type, and the life cycle of each. By using videos, attendees are able to observe bearding, orientation flights, wash boarding, swarming, and robbing behaviors.

BEEKEEPING 101
Saturday March 18, 2023
Argene Claxton Canning Plant
1701 Houston Lake Rd. Perry, GA
From 9:00am to 12:00pm
Then 1:00pm to 3:30 pm in the Apiary.
Cost \$35 per person

LOVE HONEY?
LEARN BEEKEEPING!
Beekeeping School for Beginners
Presented by the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

Only 40 spots available!

When: March 18, 2023 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Cost: Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$50 <small>Add additional family members for \$20!</small>	Where: Hebron Baptist Church, Module G Dacula, GA
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Have you ever wanted to learn the art (and science!) of beekeeping? Join us for our 1 day beekeeping school to learn all the basics of beekeeping!

To Register: Email gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com or attend the February 14, 2023 meeting at 7pm (Hebron Baptist Church, Module G, Dacula GA). **Registration ends March 4th!**

BEGINNING MARCH 25

2023 Lanier Bee Barn Beekeeping Boot Camps

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.: March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29 and August 29 at *Lanier Bee Barn, 742 Lords Mill Road, Commerce, GA 30529*

The Beekeeping Boot Camp course will include classroom time and actual hands-on in our apiary. Topics will include: biology of the honey bee, hive hardware and tools, hive placement, swarms, making splits, pests and treatments, extracting honey, and preparing for winter. Bring your veil and gloves if you have them. If not, they can be purchased at Lanier Bee Barn. You do NOT have to currently have bees to attend the class! This will give you valuable insight into beekeeping so when you get your bees, you will be better prepared. Cost: \$99 (lunch included) Payment required to reserve your spot. For more information, visit: lanierbeebarn.com/beekeepingbootcamp

Record Keeping

How Do You Keep Track of the Bees in Your Apiary?



For the science-minded beekeeper, record keeping may come naturally and each of you has your favorite technique. For others, developing a good system and sticking with it can be a challenge. You think you're going to remember from one inspection to the next if hive one is queen right or if hive four needs feed. You not only don't remember from one inspection to the next... you often don't remember from one hive to the next.

Here are a couple of record-keeping techniques that other GBA beekeepers shared. Whatever method you use – if it's paper binders, markings on the hives, or phone apps – do yourself a favor and have some kind of record keeping system for your beekeeping.

To go further, you can also keep a beekeeping journal or blog that not only records the mechanics but also the sentiment of your beekeeping. 🍯

I use paper records and writing on hive covers to keep track of my hives. On paper, I keep track of nucs with queen cells, queenright nucs, ten-frame hives, and dead hives. Each month I add up all queenright hives. I also track if a hive produces honey.

My record keeping includes writing on each hive's top cover, the date, Q for the queen, if I see her, and other pertinent information. See attached file. In late October, I write "Winter" in the top right corner, indicating they have enough honey, a queen, and worker population to survive winter. I have done all I can for them; they have to survive winter.

I indicate if a hive is queenright or not by how the brick on the outer cover is oriented, vertically or horizontally. If a hive is not queenright, I know to inspect it on my next visit.

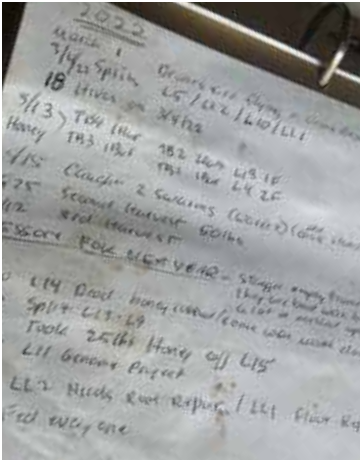
- Steve Page



Continued on following page >

Record Keeping

Continued from previous page >



I have a three-ring binder to keep track of my hive inspections. I use tabbed dividers and each hive has its own letter or number that corresponds with a tab in the notebook. I take it to the apiary with me, and after each inspection, I write the date and notes about what I did or what I saw. I keep the most recent entries in the front of each tabbed section so that I can easily see what the last entry was when I turn to that section (hive).

I also have dividers for queen information on each hive (i.e., year, color, marked), a section on mite treatments, feeding (in chart format, easily readable), and a general notes section (i.e., what's blooming, extractions, etc.).

My binder is covered with specks of propolis and wax and gets used every time I go into my hives. It allows me to easily glance at previous hive information and quickly record my inspections and stay organized. I'd be lost without it!

- **Holli Kircher**



I have between 15 to 20 hives and I use a three-ring binder with tabs for each hive. The binder allows me to make my notations after I inspect each hive because I am guaranteed not to remember anything about a hive unless I write it down right away. I also put a number on each hive and I've found that the livestock ear tags (shown right) that I get at a feed store work great. They're durable and easy to move if need be.



The paper is a type of spreadsheet noting the hive number, the date of inspection, the size of the hive, what the resources and queen status are, the hive's attitude, any pests I find, the weather conditions, and any action I took or need to take.

I also keep notes on a page each year for general information about all the hives. I try to keep track of things like how swarmy they are or if I've had a problem with robbing. I loosely keep track of the overall honey harvest.

- **Kathy Bourn**

I use a phone app called BeePlus. In some ways, it is overkill for my tiny backyard apiary, but it provides a good, searchable way to track all aspects of each inspection. It would also be suitable for users with multiple bee yards. It provides a way to track equipment, plans, finances, and swarm traps. It also provides photos and a little information to help recognize pests/diseases.



- **Kurt Schurenberg**

I use inspection sheets that I make. When I inspect, I use a GoPro to narrate and then I come back to the office and watch the videos and make my notes. I have also made Honey Harvest records to keep track of which hives produce, which is helpful since I know which ones have swarmed and which ones are prolific. My winter inspections are also shown below. I have used these and modified them for about two years and have a lot of requests for them, so much so that I am selling them on Etsy (shop name, wrenfarms)

- **Anne Huntsinger**



OUTSTANDING BEEKEEPERS IN GEORGIA:

Edward Morgan

MABA Beekeeper of the Year 2022

By *Linda Tillman*

*NOTE: Many clubs recognize a beekeeper of the year each year. This series of articles will feature beekeepers of the year from clubs around the state. **If you would like to see your club's Beekeeper of the Year featured here, send his/her name and contact information to beekeeperlinda@gmail.com***

Edward Morgan has a life full of bees and beekeepers, but it wasn't always so. Having read that to be a successful farmer, he would need to get bees, he found his first beekeeping contact on Craigslist. The beekeeper lived only five miles from Edward who drove over to see about these bees. Wearing no protective gear, the man opened the beehive. Edward thought, "This is *CRAZY*." The man put a nuc together for Edward and handed them over to him. Edward, who didn't even own a bee suit at that time, loaded the bees into his car and put the nuc in his backyard at the Air BnB where he was staying.

When he told the AirBnB host that he had put bees in the yard, the host suggested that he apply for a program

Continued on next page >



Above: Ed Morgan receives his MABA Beekeeper of the Year award in September. Below: Ed directs participants in one of his Air BnB Experience programs into their bee suits.



OUTSTANDING BEEKEEPERS IN GEORGIA:

Edward Morgan

Continued from previous page >

through which AirBnB promotes local activities. She “harassed” him for a month (she says “encouraged” him) until on the very last day to apply, Edward filled out the form himself. He woke up the next morning to find that he had been approved. Now he was on a world-wide platform as a beekeeper with absolutely no beekeeping knowledge.

Edward began to devour YouTube videos, many by **Bob Binnie**. He checked out bee books and read them. Three weeks later, someone booked the experience, **Beekeeping 101**. He still didn’t even own a veil! He ordered bee veils for the participants from Amazon, ordered hive tools, and presented the experience. He got a five-star review and was off and running.

For the first eight or nine months as a beekeeper, Edward was self-taught. He found MABA on Facebook and joined the MABA Facebook group as well as the bee club. When he went to his first meeting, he was blown away to find so many interesting and welcoming beekeepers, among them Julia Mahood, Gina Gallucci and Gail Dean. He began learning even more. He studied and passed the certified beekeeper test and is now preparing to take the journeyman test when it is offered in the fall.

Edward (who was only at the AirBnB a short time) now lives on a nine acre farm in Marietta with his wife Esther. His two sons are in college. He has goats, ducks and 150 chickens in addition to his 50 hives of bees. He plans to have 300 hives by the end of the summer.

Edward says, “People are amazed that I am a beekeeper – nobody saw it coming.” But Edward is a relatively easy risk taker, and beekeeping opened his eyes to a lot of different things, “like doing something he wasn’t comfortable with.” He likes the idea of keeping opportunities open and not being limited to the tried and true.

Edward heard Bobby Chaisson give a talk on extracting bees from buildings in which Bobby said that Georgia needs more people doing bee removals. Edward’s ears pricked up and he decided to learn how to do exactly that. Not only did he learn to do the removals, he is one of the earliest licensees under the Department of Agriculture’s new law requiring that those people doing bee removals be licensed by the state. When Edward goes on a bee removal, “I never know what to expect,” he says. Some of his biggest bee adventures happen on removal calls.

Edward is now famous in Georgia for the bee rescue at the Atlanta airport. He received a call from a beekeeper in Alaska, desperately worried about her bees which had been



Above: Ed with a good sized swarm. Ed was one of the earliest licensees under Georgia’s new bee removal law.

rerouted and stuck at Hartsfield-Jackson. He drove down to the airport to check on the situation and didn’t dress for TV - he hadn’t even shaved. So when his face appeared all over the national news, his friends teased him mercilessly for being unshaven. He headed up a rescue operation that involved beekeepers from all over the Atlanta area and thousands of dying bees. **You can read more about it here on page 5.**

One of Edward’s many contributions to MABA is his work as chair of the Junior Beekeeping program. Peter Helfrich, Vice-President of MABA, said of Edward Morgan:

“Ed is always ready to share his love of beekeeping with others. He’s great at working with kids and bees. Passing on his knowledge and enthusiasm about beekeeping to future generations is important to him and part of why he got involved with Junior Beekeepers in the first place. Plus, he’s always ready to expand his personal knowledge and understanding of bees to improve his own beekeeping. Ed was at the heart of the Hartsfield-Jackson airport bee rescue effort which made national news -- a big factor in his being chosen MABA’s Beekeeper of the Year. But it was a desire – and ability – to help that put him there. He found himself in a situation; he sized up the crisis; and he rose to the challenge.”

In addition to the Junior Beekeeping program, Edward serves on the board of MABA. He has done a bee photo shoot with Julia Mahood, using live bees on live models. He has volunteered to head up one of GBA’s prison programs, although that has not yet come to fruition. He is very active in the MABA club. When asked what it meant to him to be named Beekeeper of the Year for MABA in 2022, Edward said, “I was truly humbled. I wasn’t expecting it and I was surprised. And really honored.” 🍯

🐝 Plants for Bees: Flowering Apricot 🐝

By Kathy Bourn



Left: Honey bees love these trees' eye-catching, fragrant, pink and white blooms. Above: (top) Flowering apricots bloom while most everything else is dull and dormant. (bottom) Other pollinators, like this bee mimic Syrphid fly (hover fly) will also gladly visit these flowers.

Each winter at my farm in Hart County, usually in mid-January, I get a treat – and so do my honey bees! While everything else is dull and dormant, my Flowering Apricot trees (*Prunus mume*) are in full bloom. The eye-catching pink and white flowers stand out, but when I walk by the tree that is by my garden building, I don't know what I notice next, the spicy fragrance or the buzz of pollinators.

This plant provides both nectar and pollen for a variety of pollinating insects. My honey bees are all over it and are joined by other unidentified (at least by me) pollinators. This year it is fortunate that the trees are blooming while the weather is warm enough for the bees to fly.

These ornamental trees can reach 20' tall and 20' wide but smaller varieties are available. They are ideal for zones 6-8 in North America because they need freezing temperatures. They are slow growers and prefer full sun, but will tolerate some shade. Growth is aided by moist, well-drained, acidic soil.

Because the buds have a staggered dormancy, the bloom can last six to eight weeks, even if the tree gets a hard freeze. The Flowering Apricot does produce small fruit with a large seed, but the taste is bitter so it is undesirable.

It is native to China, but has been grown extensively in Japan for more than 1,500 years. There are more than 300 cultivars of *Prunus mume*, but the choices in the U.S. are usually available only through mail order.

The white and pink flowers have a sweet, fruity scent. You can do a little pruning at this time of year and bring a few fragrant branches into your home. The bees shouldn't be the only ones enjoying this winter treat!

For really tight spaces, consider small cultivars that are perfect for containers, such as the bright pink "Beni-chidori" and "Dawn," which grow to only eight feet. 🍯



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.*

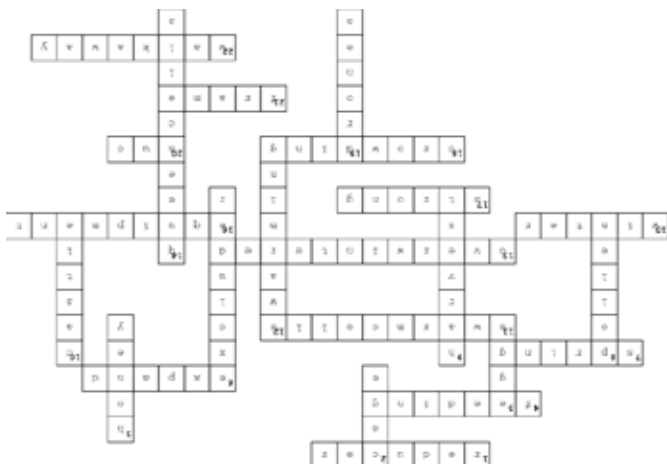
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM (CLICK HERE).

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

Altamaha Beekeepers Association

The Altamaha Beekeepers Association met in Vidalia, GA on January 9th, 2023 for their monthly meeting. As we prepare to go into swarm season for the new year, speaker **Ron Wilkes** advised on many ways to capture swarms. Mr. Wilkes covered several DIY methods, as well as products available on the market to assist, and answered several questions that helped new beekeepers narrow down ideal locations to set up their swarm traps. 🐝



Ron Wilkes gives pointers on preparing for swarm season.

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

EPBA members and UGA veterinary students **Zoë Selby, Sam Oakey, and Lauren Wood** (pictured below, top) recently had an opportunity to teach a local troop of girl scouts all about bees. The “beekeeper” and her “bouncy bees” taught the lesson plan, with all the necessary supplies to help the scouts learn about beekeeping.

EPBA’s teaching hive containing photo frames was used to show the scouts the structure of the hive and the different castes of bees. Each scout practiced using a hive tool to pull out frames, and they each learned to identify brood, honey, and pollen in the photos. They even learned about varroa and foulbrood!

The scouts also explored the beekeeper’s accessories, including an (unlit) smoker, hive tool, bee brush, and kid-sized suits to try on. The scouts had so much fun searching for the queen in the observation hive on loan from **Dan Long!** Throughout the lesson, Zoë, Sam, and Lauren fielded many excellent questions from the scouts and their parents about how bees make honey and how to make their yards more bee-friendly. The afternoon ended with a fun game and an arts and crafts session where the scouts made bee-themed posters to show all they had learned. 🐝



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, January 17th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program on performing cutouts was presented by our new president, **Doug Romans**. Doug attended the Young Harris class last year and has received his license. He presented a very informative program with many pictures of cutouts he has performed. Members were reminded about our nuc sales and our upcoming beekeeping 101 class. Please join us on February 21, 2023, for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. **Dr. Keith Delaplane** will be our guest speaker with social immunity as the topic. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at www.hogba.org. 🐝

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

At our January meeting, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club was delighted to have **Julia Mahood**, drone researcher extraordinaire, present to us her program titled “Game Of Drones.” Julia, the artist responsible for designing Georgia’s Save the Honey Bee license plate, offered fascinating insights about the lives of drones, the often forgotten and “no respect Rodney Dangerfields” of the honey bee colony. Julia’s presentation was educational from start to finish, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the slides, especially the videos of her research on Drone Congregation Areas. 🐝



Georgia Master Craftsman Beekeeper Julia Mahood

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 will be hosting its annual Beekeeping School for Beginners on Saturday, February 25th, 2023 from 9 am to 3 pm. The course will take place at the Albany State University West Campus in the Allied Health (J) Building 133. The address is 2400 Gillionville Rd, Albany, GA 31707. A certificate of completion, book, and handouts will be given to each student.

The registration cost will include a one-year membership with the SOWEGA Beekeepers Club and a club decal – AND A FREE HIVE TOOL. Lunch, drinks, and snacks are provided. (If you have food sensitivities, we suggest you bring a sack lunch).

The cost is \$45.00 per person (non-club member). \$35 per additional family member. \$25 per existing club member. Call 229-598-7000 or email: sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com



Tara Beekeepers Association

Congratulations to **Jerry Haygood**, who was named Tara Beekeepers Association's Beekeeper of the Year at our January meeting. Tara Beekeepers now meets at a new location, conveniently located in the south metro Atlanta area: Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church in East Point, GA. Our monthly meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. and are free to attend. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees! 🐝



Jerry Haygood receives his Beekeeper of the Year award from Tara Beekeepers Association vice president Deb DeWitt

TriCounty Beekeepers

TriCounty Beekeepers hosted **Dr. Keith S Delaplane** in January for an overview of his upcoming book "Crop Pollination For Bees, Volume II." In addition to offering tips on pollinating certain crop types, Dr. Delaplane informed us of the unfortunate news of the decision to sunset the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute. Our Master beekeeper candidates are already making plans to test at the fall GBA conference in Gainesville.

TriCounty Beekeepers meets the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at Gillsville City Park, 7864 County Line Rd, Gillsville, GA. Mentoring dinner and Journeyman study group meet at the Chick-fil-A on Jesse Jewel Pkwy in Gainesville at 5:30 before the meeting. **Follow us on Facebook.**



UGA's Dr. Keith Delaplane speaks to the TriCounty Beekeepers on Crop Pollination for Bees.

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		Feb. 13	Swarm Traps: How to Build, Bait & Find Suitable Locations – Corey Matheson	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm		Feb. 2	The Mind of the Bee – Dr. Lars Chittka	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		Feb. 6	Preventing Swarms with Checkerboarding – Ron Putman	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		Feb. 23	UGAs Dr. Lewis Bartlett	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)		Feb. 21	Social Immunity – Dr. Keith Delaplane	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm		Feb. 14	Checkerboarding	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)*

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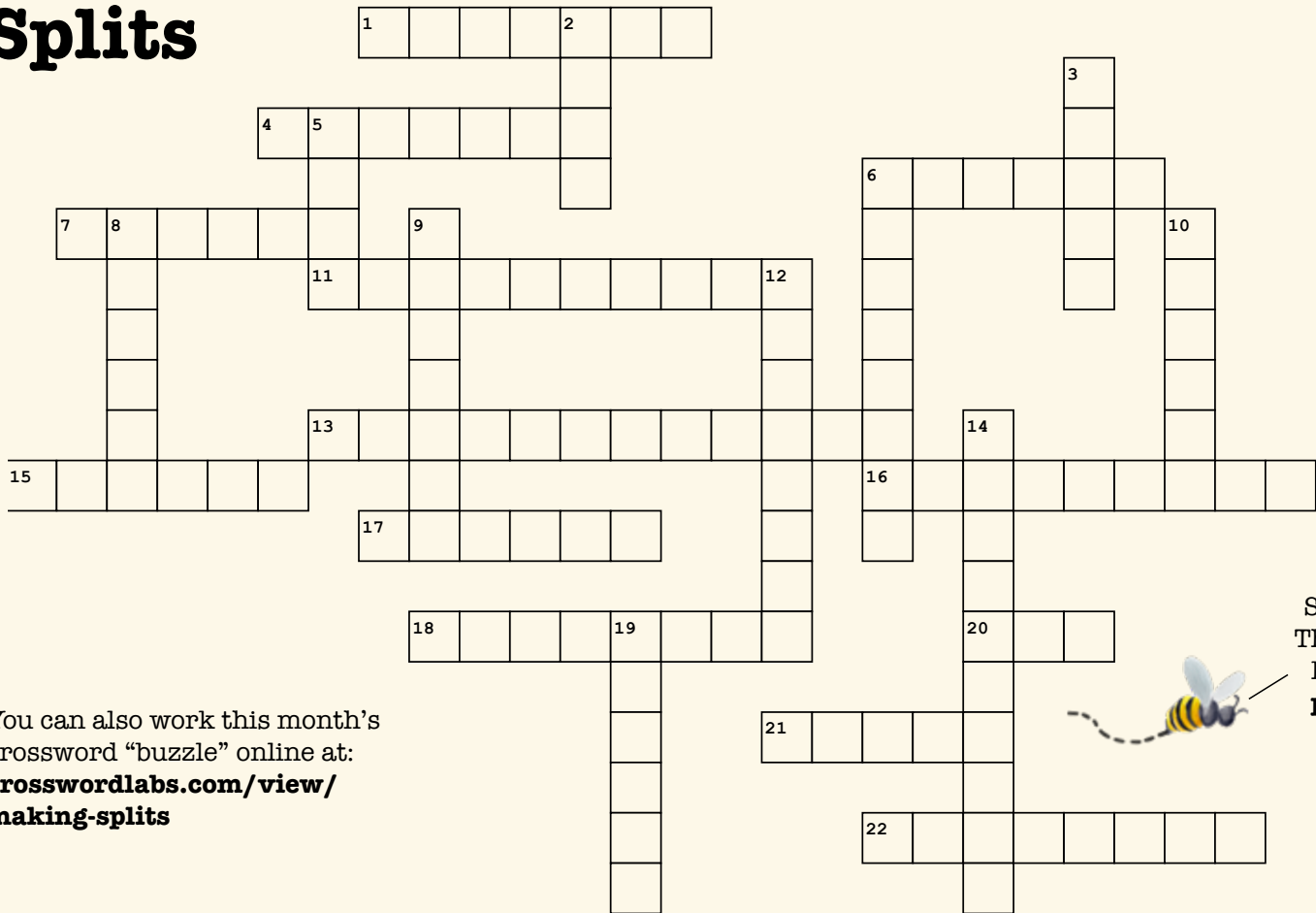
Club	Location	Schedule	In-Person/Virtual	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm				lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgrSciCenter 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm		Feb. 2	Queen Rearing – Dan Long	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	Feb. 21	Humidity and Temperature Monitoring – Jöerg Mayer, UGA professor of zoological medicine	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		Feb. 20	Bee Immunity – Annette Kleiser	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	In person	Feb. 13	Spring Management – Olivia M. Menard	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.)		Feb. 16	Bob Binnie	bjpette7731@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



Making Splits



You can also work this month's crossword "buzzle" online at: crosswordlabs.com/view/making-splits

Stumped?
The answer key is on **page 19**.



ACROSS:

1. Putting this at the entrance of your split helps the bees protect their new vulnerable colony
4. Often a new split needs this in order to make sure the colony has nurture.
6. Sometimes splits are done to do this to your apiary
7. best time to make a split because it is a time of high growth in the beehive
11. If you see these in a strong colony, moving a frame with these on it to the split assures a quicker queen presence in the new colony
13. If a hive has done this, it will be a good hive to split in the spring
15. Losses in this season may be compensated for by making splits in the spring and summer.
16. You must have extra of this in order to make a split
17. No matter when you split, the originating colony must be a _____ colony. You should leave it with plenty of brood even after you have removed the frames for the split.
18. Making a split relieves this in the spring bee hive
20. Having a split in this kind of box creates resources for your apiary
21. The best one of these for a split has capped brood as well as open cells with eggs.
22. In this type of split the hive is split exactly in half – equal numbers of brood frames, pollen frames, honey frames in each half of the split

DOWN:

2. If you introduce a purchased queen to a split, she will be in this
3. A split must include this on frames to feed the new hive
5. If you want your split to make their own queen, the split must include frames with these in the cells
6. An easy way to split is to shake all of the bees off of the brood frames and other frames that you want in the split and put the box with frames for the split above this in the hive. The next day the new box will be filled with bees for the split population
8. A split must include frames of this
9. Since a split usually lowers honey production, beekeepers sometimes choose to make splits in their hives after they have completed their _____.
10. Some people make very small three frame splits into a piece of equipment called a queen _____. (Personally doesn't seem like much of a luxurious abode to me, but that is its name.)
12. An early spring split may prevent your colony from doing this
14. You should see these in the new split in about a week or it will not be successful
19. These must be flying in order for a split to be able to make a queen



Spilling *The* Honey

MARCH 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We just concluded another tremendous conference! Dr. Keith Delaplane tells me that we are in the top tier of bee associations. Thank you to all those who worked all year, all the weeks since our last conference, and the day of this spectacular Spring 2023 conference. It took the whole gang and we were very successful. We had a very high attendance of almost 300 participants. There was great food, learning, laughs, and wonderful solidarity.

Our officers and directors deserve credit for sharing their talents and achieving goals within their own areas of expertise. In particular, we thank **Bobby Chaisson, Jonathan Hayes, Emily Heath, and Luke Ellerman**, who all worked before and during the conference to make registration and check-in a breeze. I am grateful also to **Mike Hodges** who sat at the registration table to allow others to go to talks while the cold wind blew in every time the door opened. **Karen Palmer** and **Monica Shepard** were go-to people who got tasks done at a moment's notice. **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich** managed the raffle, door prizes, and ticket sales. **Ed Hoehn** greeted vendors and collected door prizes.

Many thanks go to **Brutz English** and **Katie Goodman** for managing our Artisan Show and passing out \$4,090.00 in cash prizes. Our artisan judges brought a high quality to their tasks and held high standards to the entries.

I can't even remember all the help I had managing the board meeting and keeping on track with Robert's Rules! If you missed it, all I can say is, *I'm learning and we did have a few laughs!*

When an officer resigns, the Board of Directors is charged with nominating and electing their replacement. We voted in **Julia Mahood** as vice-president to take over for **Derrick Fowler** who resigned due to his changing work commitments. As any of you know who've worked with Julia, she is smart and is an expert at managing our conferences and overall financial responsibility. We are beyond lucky that Julia agreed to run and be our next vice-president. **Mark Shields** has been acting secretary since **Georgia Zumwalt** resigned as of the fall meeting. Mark was officially voted into that officer position by the Board of Directors. Mark has been doing a marvelous job with our communications and keeping minutes.

I had the pleasure of appointing **Cindy Hodges** to the vacant board position of Director, Metro Atlanta region which was last held by Julia Mahood.

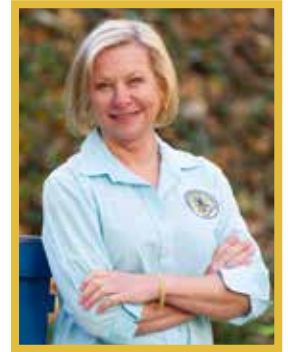
Jonathan Hayes works tirelessly as our GBA Webmaster and Technology Officer. He continues to improve our organization and our ability to manage all the areas. He has begun migrating our GBA software to Google Workplace thereby unifying all the GBA emails to XX@gabeekeeping.com addresses. This move will allow GBA to have better control of its digital intellectual property.

The GBA Prison Program is adjusting to changes and we had an extensive overview from **David Hollomon** who spoke on behalf of Julia Mahood, the prison program chair.

Finally, a special thanks to **Emily Heath**, who in addition to her job as a GBA director, is also bridging the membership software with our bookkeeping. Thank you, Emily, for agreeing to help with keeping the membership up to step financially.

We should all applaud each other for volunteering our time and high energy to make the Georgia Beekeepers Association such a great organization. So many people helped in so many ways. I know I've missed thanking some of you by name, but know that I appreciated what you each did. *Thank you all!*

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

For complete
2024 Spring
Conference and
Artisan Show
coverage, see
page 4.





How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee Members:

Committee Chair Julia Mahood
 GBA President Gina Gallucci
 GBA Vice President Derrick Fowler
 GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman
 GBA Secretary Mark Shields
 Bob Binnie
 Katie Goodman

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

Featured Grant Project:

Beekeeper Short Course, Fayette County Extension office

In August 2021, 27 program participants joined in for at least one of three Tuesday workshops to learn the art of keeping honey bees from **Tom Bonnell**, Henry County Beekeepers Association, with eight participants completing all three programs. Also, an educational hive was added to the education garden in May 2021 for future program opportunities.



🍯 Plants for Bees: Hyssop 🍯

By **Kathy Bourn**

I've been told I need to add Hyssop to my garden for my bees and other pollinators. Now it's time to figure out what type of Hyssop I need. It's very confusing because there are several plants called hyssop, but they come from two different genera: *Hyssopus* and *Agastache*. They are both a part of the mint family (*Lamiaceae*) and they look similar. The two types I'll talk about here are *Hyssopus officinalis*, known as Hyssop, and *Agastache foeniculum*, also known as Anise Hyssop.

Hyssopus officinalis - Hyssop

This is the variety known as common hyssop. It takes 85 days for the plants to flower so the blue/violet flowers appear in the summer months. It grows to a bushy clump and reseeds easily. It is an herbaceous perennial and is attractive to butterflies and is pollinated by bees. It is cold-hardy and prefers full sun. It can tolerate chalky, sandy soil and is in the three to ten planting zone. Propagate by division in spring or by cuttings or seeds.

The woody stem will grow to 12"- 24" tall and the upright branches have dark green leaves. The flowers range from pink to purple to blue and sometimes white. Cultivars include Blue Flower and Rock Hyssop.

Agastache foeniculum - Anise Hyssop

Anise hyssop is not a true hyssop although it grows spiky stems and has small flowers like the common hyssop but grows to 3ft. It goes by several common names including giant hyssop, lavender

hyssop, and blue giant hyssop. It is also a member of the mint family and is similar to true hyssop but is not as hardy so it is considered a tender perennial.

The flowers are edible and the leaves have a licorice flavor and can substitute anise seed in cooking. It grows well in zones 6 to 10 and can handle more shade than other hyssops.

Other species include Yellow Giant Hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*), Korean Hyssop (*Agastache rugosa*), and Mexican or Southwestern Hyssop (*Agastache mexicana*).

The straight species of giant blue hyssop or the cultivar Blue Fortune are the best for pollinators. You may also see hummingbirds taking a sip from hyssop. Historically, mass plantings of giant blue hyssop were established in parts of the Midwest and Canada specifically as a "honey plant" to support apiaries

Hyssop can be used as other mints are, for cooking and medicinal purposes. In herbal medicine, hyssop is believed to have soothing, expectorant, and cough-suppressant properties. It can be harvested in the spring and fall. Trimming in the spring will help the health of the plant and existing plants can be divided. Established plants are drought tolerant but what caught my attention is that Hyssop is reported to be resistant to browsing by rabbits and deer. We'll see about that! 🍯



Photo Credit: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



Photo Credit: North Carolina Extension



2023

SPRING CONFERENCE & ARTISAN SHOW

RECAP



SCENES FROM GBA'S SPRING CONFERENCE

1. GBA president Gina Gallucci leads Friday's GBA Board Meeting. **2.** Friday dinner attendees line up for a delicious meal. **3.** Gina Gallucci greets attendees at the Friday beer and wine social. **4.** Pianist Eddie Gwaltney entertained by playing a variety of popular music. **5.** Georgia Zumwalt and Dan Long catch up. **6.** Emily Heath, GBA's southwest regional director. **7.** Kamon Reynolds speaks about varroa control during one of his two keynote addresses. **8.** Dr. Jeff Harris spoke about birds and bees during the Friday dinner. **9.** Dr. Keith Delaplane speaks about bees in urban environments. **10.** Attendees listen to a keynote presentation. **11.** Dan Long leads the bidding for the GBA web site's annual ad auction. **12.** This year's beekeeping vendors offered everything from protective gear to children's books. **13.** The always popular vendor area was busy throughout this year's conference. **14.** Peter Helfrich sells raffle tickets for the variety of beekeeping stuff that was auctioned off. **15.** Conference attendees dig in to lunch on Saturday. **16.** Bobby Chaisson spoke about safety in the bee yard. **17.** Conference attendees had the opportunity to select to attend two of five break-out sessions offered.

Coverage continues on next page >



2023

SPRING CONFERENCE & ARTISAN SHOW

RECAP



18. Gail Dean and Peter Helfrich sell drink tickets during Friday's beer and wine social. **19.** Mary Cahill-Roberts shares her secrets for making creamed honey during one of the break-out sessions. **20.** Mary Lacksen speaks to an over-flowing break-out session about the usefulness of keeping nucs. **21.** Broadus Williams speaks on the topic of swarm management. **22.** Vendors had all manner of beekeeping equipment available for purchase. **23.** Keynote speakers Kamon Reynolds and Dr. Jeff Harris. **24.** Attendees shop in the vendor corridor. **25.** Everything from the traditional to the new-fangled was for sale. **26.** The new GBA banner on display made a perfect selfie backdrop. **27.** Vendors dispensed advice as well as equipment. **28.** A satisfied customer heads home with new bee stuff! **29.** Bob Binnie and Karen Palmer mingle with other conference attendees during Friday's beer and wine social. **30.** Visiting vendors in person at a conference allows for the important opportunity to try equipment like suits on to ensure a proper fit. **31.** Break-out sessions were full of helpful, practical information. **32.** The conference was well attended, with more than 300 registrants. **33.** Kelley Campbell converses over lunch. **34.** Artisan Show judges convene to discuss the entries.



20
23

SPRING
CONFERENCE
& ARTISAN SHOW

RECAP

ARTISAN SHOW

BEST OF SHOW & SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

Sheryl Brousseau, of Edgefield, SC (near Augusta, GA), was the top winner in the 2023 GBA Spring Conference Artisan Show. The **Best in Show** winner for her honey cocktail, Sheryl also took home the **Sweepstakes Award** for earning the most total show points among all the competitors with a tally of 72 points!

Entering 16 different classes, she won a total of four first-place ribbons, five second-place ribbons, five third-place ribbons, a highly commendable and commendable. Her daughter, Rebecca Joye, also won a first for her Floral arrangement entry.

Sheryl is a Journeyman beekeeper in SC, the president of Ridge Beekeepers Association in Edgefield County, a speaker for local clubs in South Carolina, and is in her eighth season of beekeeping. Starting out as a honey show competitor, she took the honey judge training to learn how to become a

better competitor and is now a certified honey judge.

“I found out I like judging more than competing,” Sheryl says. “I love awarding ribbons and seeing happy faces, but competing makes me a better judge because I understand the hard work that goes into making these great entries. I competed in this show to earn show points that help me retain my certification as a judge. That’s one of the reasons why you’ll see honey judges competing from time to time. I offer my thanks to GBA for the awards and prize money, the honey judge team, and everyone involved in the show. It was a great experience!” 🍯





2023

SPRING CONFERENCE & ARTISAN SHOW

RECAP

ARTISAN SHOW

By **Dr. Mary Cahill-Roberts**, Senior Honey Judge, AHSTC

We had a good turnout for the 2023 GBA Spring Artisan Show. There was a delightful array of delectable treats, artwork, gadgets, and meads. As always, a powerhouse lineup of judges was ready to take on the challenge of finding the best of the best. We worked diligently during the four hours allotted for judging, looking for the products' cleanliness, consistency, and conformity.

One of the categories I judged was the flower arrangement and it was superb. The arrangement was painstakingly placed in the container and attached well so the flower branch would stand up. The entrant took it from her backyard and affixed it to the jar. She was careful in cutting all the dead vegetation off and made sure to have a visual piece that was stunning with various stages of flowering. The angles of this flower were excellent and very appealing to the eye. She had

a great explanation of the plant as a *Prunus salicina*, or Japanese plum.

All our GBA members could produce photography, artwork, and flower arrangements for every show. This member walked away with 1st prize and a \$100 check for her efforts. She was able to pay for her conference fee and as she entered other categories. I suspect she paid for her travel as well!

The purpose of the Honey and Artisan Shows is to give feedback on the products that we beekeepers produce. We believe if you produce quality products, then you will want to have healthy, strong, hearty bees. You will become a better beekeeper because of the feedback you receive from honey show judges. Judges really want to educate the beekeeper in this way and highlight GBA members so that we can say we have the best honey and apiary products in the country! Believe me, I know we are getting there! 🍯



1. Rebecca Jaye's winning Japanese plum floral arrangement. **2.** Attendees browse and admire artisan show entries ranging from quilts to syrup making barrels. **3.** Wax pine cones, part of Holli Kircher's first place entry in Decorative Display. **4.** Artisan Show judges Brutz English and Katie Goodman announce the winners. **5.** Jams and sauces entered as part of the artisan show's Condiments category.

Coverage continues on next page >

ARTISAN SHOW



6. Sheryl Brousseau's winning traditional honey cake entry. 7. Linda Tillman's award winning honey almond cake with saffron. 8. Brutz English and the judges confer over the entries. 9. Beautiful molded wax blocks with honey bee. 10. From baked goods to woodwork to painting, the talent of GBA's membership was on full display. 11. Holli Kircher's award winning photograph of foragers returning with pollen. 12. This beautiful first place award winning beeswax casting by Holli Kircher was created using an antique cake pan. 13. Linda Tillman's quilted bag won first place in needlework. 14. Entries in the photo essay category. 15. First place award for this Honeyed Tooth Cleanser. 16. Sheryl Brousseau's third place entries in the sweet mead category. 17. Conference attendees eagerly review the show.

1ST PLACE POEM:

Maple Trees 'Mid Winter's Chill

by Peter Helfrich

All nature has its rhythms –
Planets traveling their paths,
The ebb and flow of oceans –
An order each must have.

In their hive, the honey bees'
Dominion's governed, too,
By primal laws and forces,
Ancient celestial cues.

Maple trees 'mid winter's chill
First flowers frail display.
Auspicious signs perceived, the bees
Are set upon their way.

The bounty cold those blooms dispense
Revival prompts – *rebirth!*
A mighty workforce six weeks hence
In springtime will fly forth.

Thus, on the fragile promise
Of a blossom on a tree,
The bees again awaken
Their noble industry.



ARTISAN SHOW

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Best in Show

Sheryl Brousseau – Honey Cocktails

Sweepstakes Winner

Sheryl Brousseau (72 points)

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY WINNERS

Class	Place	Name
Meads (sweet)	3rd	Sheryl Brousseau
Meads (dry)	Commendable	Sheryl Brousseau
Beer & Ale	2nd	Jay Parsons
Honey Cocktails	1st	Sheryl Brousseau
Honey Beverages	1st	David Hollomon
	2nd	Betty Cosgrove
	3rd	Sheryl Brousseau
Honey Cake (traditional)	1st	Sheryl Brousseau
Honey Cake (open)	1st	Linda Tillman
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
	3rd	Debra DeWitt
	Very Highly Commendable	Betty Cosgrove
Breads	1st	Linda Tillman
	3rd	Sheryl Brousseau
	Very Highly Commendable	Debra DeWitt
	Commendable	Betty Cosgrove
Confections	1st	Sandra Campbell
	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Christy Jones
	Very Highly Commendable	Linda Tillman
	Highly Commendable	Sheryl Brousseau
	Commendable	Holly Bayendor

ARTISAN SHOW

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Condiments	1st	Emily Heath
	2nd	Debra DeWitt
	3rd	Sheryl Brousseau
	Very Highly Commendable	Summer Cordell
	Highly Commendable	Betty Cosgrove
	Commendable	Linda Tillman
Artwork	1st	Holli Kircher
	2nd	Bobbee Macbees
	3rd	Christy Jones
	Very Highly Commendable	Patti Parsons
	Highly Commendable	Michael Buchanan
	Commendable	Sandra Campbell
Crafts	1st	David Hollomon
	2nd	Sandra Campbell
Needlecraft	1st	Linda Tillman
	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Karen Palmer
Notions, Potions, & Lotions	1st	Sandra Campbell
	2nd	Summer Cordell
	3rd	Sheryl Brousseau
	Very Highly Commendable	Justin Bennett
	Highly Commendable	Holli Kircher
	Commendable	Debra DeWitt
Photography (selected topic)	1st	Bobbee Macbees
	2nd	Holli Kircher
	3rd	Sandra Campbell
	Very Highly Commendable	Debra DeWitt
Photography (essay)	1st	Debra Dewitt
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
Photography (open)	1st	Holli Kircher
	2nd	Debra DeWitt
	3rd	Holly Bayendor
	Very Highly Commendable	Linda Tillman
	Highly Commendable	Summer Cordell
	Commendable	Sandra Campbell

ARTISAN SHOW

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Poetry	1st	Peter Helfrich
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
	3rd	Melinda McCuan
	Very Highly Commendable	David Hollomon
Electronic Media	1st	Sheryl Brousseau
Floral Display	1st	Rebecca Jaye
Decorative Display	1st	Holli Kircher
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
Gadgets	1st	Steven Page
	2nd	Dan Long
	3rd	Roger Kicklighter
	Very Highly Commendable	David Miller
Honey Jar Label	1st	Debra DeWitt
	2nd	Sheryl Brousseau
	3rd	Jay Parsons
Woodcraft	1st	D.S. Resch
Beekeeping Antiquities	1st	Debra DeWitt
	2nd	Sandra Campbell

Prison Division

Best in Show

Lee Arrendale State Prison

HONEY SHOW OFFICIALS:

Brutz English, Senior Honey Judge
Steve Genta, Senior Honey Judge
Mary Cahill-Roberts, Senior Honey Judge
Darek Foti, Honey Judge
Gail Dean, Honey Judge
Kelsey Gerhardt, Honey Judge

Show Secretaries: Katie Goodman, Robin Cahill-Roberts, and Anita Curry

Stewards: Stephanie Slater, Troy Winters, Jamie Cahill-Roberts



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: The EZPZ Queen Cage

by Dan Long

I've been raising queens for a while now and really like the JZBZ queen cell cup. But they don't have a cage for it, and the roller cages used by other systems don't fit it. Those of us who raise queens have rigged up ways to use roller cages, but it's never quite right and the valuable queens are at risk if something goes wrong. Even when we can manage a fairly decent setup for the incubator, nothing will work for queen cells on the bar itself.

I've been tinkering with 3D printing for a couple of years and decided to develop something for this need. It took a lot of learning about 3D design software and plenty of prototypes before I was happy with a working version. What I have holds the cell cup snugly – whether it's on the cell bar or off – keeping the queen secure inside. Each has two small troughs in the bottom to hold a drop of honey and/or water for the newly emerged queen. I also designed a tray to hold up to 30 cages in an incubator, and candy caps to fill with fondant in case the cage will also be used for introduction. They swap out with the cell cup once the queen has emerged.

I posted about some of the early prototypes on a Facebook group dedicated to queen breeders and got some good advice on refinements. I also got some help refining my printing techniques from Mark Shields, our GBA secretary.

I put together a little website at EZPZ.BUZZ and sales took off immediately! As of today, the EZPZ cages are in several places in the United States and three other countries with interest from several more! An early customer in Australia already has them in use for general queen rearing and he likes them especially for holding virgin queens before artificial insemination.

I highly recommend getting a 3D printer. It's cheaper than you might think and not as technical as it used to be. I use a free online 3D modeling website called Tinkercad. There are more complex platforms and downloadable software available too. My first printer was

an Ender 3 Pro. Most people are surprised to learn that it only costs about \$250. They're even cheaper now. At first, I found 3D designs for free on websites like **Thingiverse.com** and downloaded them. Then I started designing things for beekeeping and around the house. Even if you never get into the design side, there are dozens of useful files for beekeepers and thousands more for all sorts of practical, fun, or decorative uses. Now I have four printers to keep up with the demand for EZPZ cages and accessories. 🐝



Upcoming 2023 Beginner Beekeeping Courses



MARCH 4

Altamaha Beekeepers Association Field Day

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

840 E Hiawatha St. Metter, GA 30439

Considering learning beekeeping? Are you a beginner beekeeper or want to learn more? The Altamaha Beekeeping Association and the Caney Branch Bee Association have joined forces to bring about a FREE Field Day class! Lunch will be included. Learn about splitting hives to prevent swarms. Learn how to produce your own Nucs to sell or increase your bee yard. \$5 raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win a Nuc from Bobby Colson! Raffle winner will be pulled at ABA Meeting on March 6th in Vidalia. You do not need to be present to win! (However- legible contact information is required to win!) <https://www.facebook.com/events/3393701970851926/>

MARCH 4

East Metro Beekeepers Association Beekeeping Short Course

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Rockdale County UGA Extension Office
1127 West Ave SW, Conyers, GA 30012



The East Metro Beekeepers Association is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Beekeeping Short Course on Sat, March 4, 2023 at the Rockdale County UGA Extension Office located at 1127 West Ave SW, Conyers, GA 30012. Registration will start at 7:30. We will have an hour break for lunch which will be on your own. The cost will be \$25/individual or \$35/family. This cost will include a club membership for 2023. We will be collecting the class fee during registration and can be made via cash or check. Please email us at EastMetroBeeks@gmail.com if you plan to attend so we can make sure we have enough class materials for everyone. Hope to see you there.

MARCH 11 & 18

Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association 2023 Introduction to Beekeeping Bee School

On Saturday March 11th, we will have a full day of in-class instruction on essential topics to get you started and ensure success in the wonderful world of beekeeping. On the following Saturday, the 18th, we will have a bonus field day where you will get hands-on experience in the apiary. This will also be an excellent refresher event for seasoned beekeepers. More detailed information will be posted on our website soon at: <http://negabeekeeping.com>

It's Back to BEE School Time!

Introduction to Beekeeping
March 11th & 18th

Learn everything you need to know to get started in beekeeping! You can choose to just to come and watch or **Join Right In and get your apiculture!** Join us at the classroom at North Georgia Technical College in Chamblisville GA on Saturday March 11th & also the following Saturday in 2023, GA Air Field Day for some hands on training (except for the class fee about \$50). Appear in person, or see the info below the sign on sign up below!

Cost: \$50 (includes materials, lunch, and field day)

Cost: \$100 + \$25 (includes materials, lunch, and field day)

Cost: \$150 + \$25 + \$50 (includes materials, lunch, and field day)

March 11th - The Classroom: Learn from top-notch industry speakers what you need to know to get started in the wonderful world of beekeeping!

March 18th - The Field: Hands On Learning!

MARCH 18

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Beekeeping 101 Class

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Argene Claxton Canning Plant
1701 Houston Lake Rd., Perry, GA

The HOGBA Beekeeping 101 class is intended to be an introductory class for those interested in becoming beekeepers. Officers and members of HOGBA conduct the one-day class. The first 4 - 4 1/2 hours consist of a lecture/discussion. A PowerPoint presentation is utilized to present topics including bee behavior, benefits and products of beekeeping, duties of the beekeeper, safety, and nuc installation. Attendees also receive one to two hours of hands-on time in an apiary. Attendees are paired up with an instructor and a hive inspection is conducted. This is always the most exciting time as many have never been this close to bees before. HOGBA's 101 class will be in March of 2023. **Check out our website for more information and to register: www.hogba.org**

BEEKEEPING 101

Saturday March 18, 2023
Argene Claxton Canning Plant
1701 Houston Lake Rd.
Perry, GA
From 9:00am to 12:00pm
Then 1:00pm to 3:30 pm
in the Apiary.

Cost \$35 per person

MARCH 18

Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County 2023 Bee School

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hebron Baptist Church, Module G,
Dacula, GA

This class will be geared to the beginner beekeeper, but anyone is welcome. Included in the cost is the presentation material, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* book, one year club membership, vendor catalogs, lunch, and gifts from the hive. Complete details to be announced. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/gwinnettbeekeepers/>

LOVE HONEY? LEARN BEEKEEPING!

Beekeeping School for Beginners
Presented by the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County

When: March 18, 2023
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Cost: Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$50

Where: Hebron Baptist Church, Module G, Dacula, GA

Have you ever wanted to learn the art and science of beekeeping? Join us for our 1 day beekeeping school to learn all the basics of beekeeping!

To Register: Email gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com or attend the February 14, 2023 meeting at 7pm (Hebron Baptist Church, Module G, Dacula GA). **Registration ends March 4th!**

Only 40 spots available!

BEGINNING MARCH 25

2023 Lanier Bee Barn Beekeeping Boot Camps

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.: March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29 and August 29 at *Lanier Bee Barn, 742 Lords Mill Road, Commerce, GA 30529*

The Beekeeping Boot Camp course will include classroom time and actual hands-on in our apiary. Topics will include: biology of the honey bee, hive hardware and tools, hive placement, swarms, making splits, pests and treatments, extracting honey, and preparing for winter. Bring your veil and gloves if you have them. If not, they can be purchased at Lanier Bee Barn. You do NOT have to currently have bees to attend the class! This will give you valuable insight into beekeeping so when you get your bees, you will be better prepared. Cost: \$99 (lunch included) Payment required to reserve your spot. For more information, visit: lanierbeebarn.com/beekeepingbootcamp

The Benevolent Bee

Stephanie Bruneau

Book review by *David Hinton*

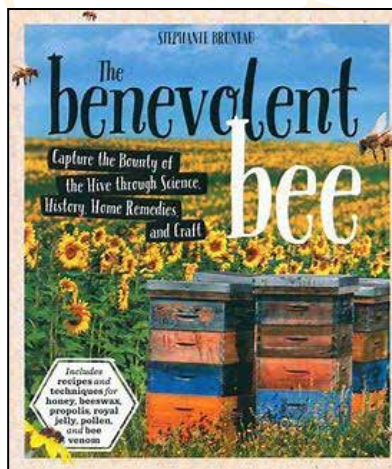
The *Benevolent Bee* is one of many books with a subtitle that tells you what the book is about: *Capture the Bounty of the Hive through Science, History, Home Remedies, and Craft*. It is a beautiful book, with a brightly colored cover and eye-catching design throughout. It is also what I call a “fun” book because you can enjoy picking it up anytime, opening it up anywhere, and just enjoy reading.

The author, Stephanie Bruneau is the chief beekeeper for the West Laurel Hill apiary. She describes West Laurel Hill as “a beautiful, sustainable progressive and dynamic institution. . .”

And just what kind of institution is West Laurel Hill, of which her apiary is a part? A cemetery! Located just outside the Philadelphia city limits, the cemetery hosts an arboretum and an out-door sculpture park as well as the apiary. Personally, I never thought of a cemetery as a “dynamic institution” but then how many cemeteries boast an active apiary? And what makes the cemetery “progressive?” Bruneau observes that “Welcoming our hives is just one part of the organization’s effort to be on the forefront of sustainability – West Laurel Hill is chemical and pesticide free in their lawn care and facilities management and even employs goats to help control invasive plants.”

An interesting aside: a two-page pictorial spread of the apiary shows both Langstroth and top bar hives in use.

In the book’s introduction, she shares her reason for writing the book: “My goal with this book is to share with you my abounding enthusiasm for honeybees, my ever-growing awe of the honeybee hive and the amazing products it offers, and some of the timeless and tested uses of these products. I hope my energy will be contagious and you will feel excited and empowered to try some of these recipes yourself. I also hope that because of this book, the wellness of your family might be a bit more firmly within your own grasp, supported by bees in your neighborhood.”



The book’s chapters reveal the breadth of the book and its approach: Propolis (“Healing throughout history”), Bee Pollen (“A Nutritional Powerhouse”), Honey (“An Ancient Super-food”), Royal Jelly (“The Queen’s Fountain of Youth”), Bee Venom (“A Healing Sting”), and Beeswax (A Clean and Golden Light”). And, each chapter ends with numerous recipes to help the reader enjoy the claims made for honey throughout the book. For example, “Honey: An Ancient Superfood” includes the recipe for what the author calls “Honey Fire Tonic,”

described as “a traditional folk remedy that combines apple cider vinegar and raw local honey with powerful and spicy antimicrobial and decongestant herbs to boost your immune system, kick-start your circulation, stimulate digestion, and warm you right up.” With a claim like that, who wouldn’t want to make a batch? But caution: the spicy herbs that she so lightly referred to include ginger, horseradish, onion, garlic, and hot pepper!

I am also intrigued with the recipe for the “Power Breakfast Spread,” which the author claims is “delicious on toast for breakfast” and includes honey, tahini, bee pollen, and cocoa powder. Somebody try it and let me know.

A high school classmate is a very talented writer who I found out recently writes for “Cappers Weekly,” a name I remember from my childhood because my grandmother, a Kansas farm housewife, was a regular reader. When I looked at its current online iteration, still aimed at midwestern farm households, I saw an excerpt from this book that lured me into buying it for the NABA Library. I can recommend this book for all levels of beekeepers. 🐝

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.




Cover Story

By Virginia Webb

One of the most coveted items for us long-time beekeepers is to boast having our picture on the cover of one of the national beekeeping magazines. Several GBA members have received this honor. A few that come to mind include Dr. Alfred Dietz, Dr. Keith Delaplane, Sonny Swords, and Fred Rossman. Even though I may never get this opportunity, I did receive a great honor by being on the cover of the 2023 John C. Campbell Folk School catalog.

If you are not familiar with JCCFS, located just south of Murphy, North Carolina, they provide small-size classes year-round on a scenic 270-acre campus. The Folk School classes are a weeklong or weekend for adults in craft, art, music, dance, cooking, gardening, nature studies, blacksmithing, photography, writing, and more. For nearly 20 years I have taught a beginning beekeeping class that has produced some well-known beekeepers here in Georgia, including Linda Tillman, Julia Mahood, and EJ Kruger.

This year my beekeeping class is at the end of April, and a second class taught by Katie Goodman will be at the end of August. For more information on JCCFS and the classes they offer go to: **folkschool.org.** 

Top: Virginia Webb on the cover of the John C. Campbell Folk School's 2023 catalog of classes. Bottom: Virginia has taught at JCCFS for nearly 20 years. Photos courtesy of John C. Campbell Folk School.

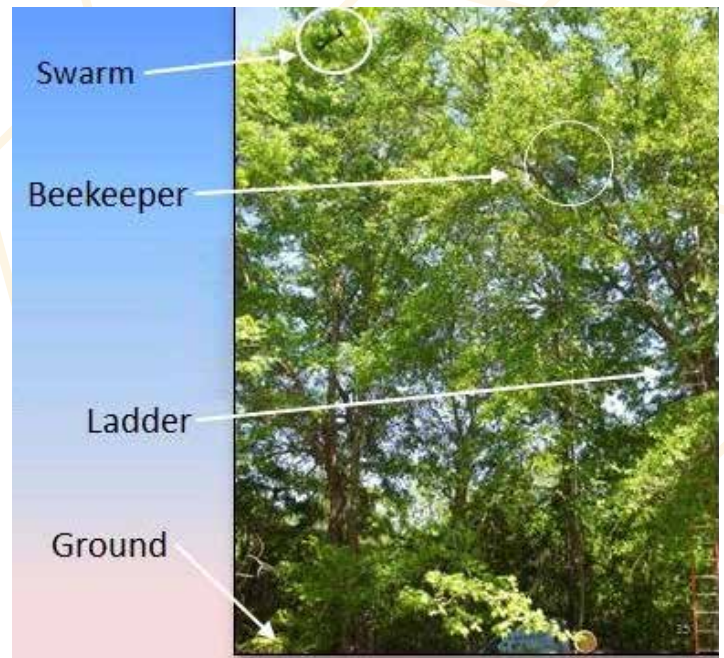


SWARM CATCHING

KEEP IT SAFE

The terrifying picture shown at right is shared annually by Steve Page with Coweta Beekeepers to demonstrate how NOT to catch a swarm that has clustered. The beekeeper, who shall remain unnamed, did survive this swarm-catching strategy, but others have not been so lucky...

Please think about this picture and the cautionary tale submitted by Drew Harvey (below) the next time you're considering trying to get the swarm that is just a little too high up. There is no shame in just waving goodbye to those bees and wishing them well! 🍯



“Free” Bees

By *Drew Harvey*

O*h, the lure of free bees!* I saw the swarm hanging on a limb about 20 to 25 feet high. Quick to action, I positioned my truck under the swarm and climbed to the top of the cab where my pole with a bucket attached on the end could just reach them. All was good when I sharply bumped the limb with the bucket to knock the bees inside. As I turned to climb down, the pole and bucket, full of bees, started listing to one side which made me lose my balance. I was able to jump down, rather ungraciously, to the bed of the truck but my momentum kept me stumbling forward. I took a couple of awkward steps through the bed of my truck and jumped to the ground. I landed on my feet, but at that point my

body was leaning so far forward that I fell down sideways, landing on my arm with a hard thud!



I lay there for a minute to catch my breath, scooped up some very disoriented bees, and hobbled back to the truck all the while wincing in pain. I figured I could just shake it off and everything would be fine in the morning.

But when morning rolled around, I could barely get out of bed because my ribs hurt so badly. Suffice it to say, my next stop was the emergency room where I found out I had cracked three ribs. After a hefty hospital bill, I concluded *those bees were anything but free!* 🍯

BEE PART ART

The Stinger (Aculeus)

By Kathy Bourn

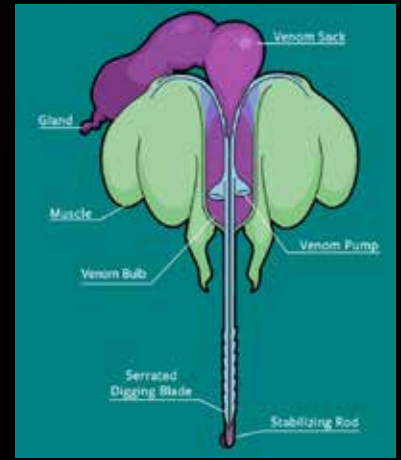
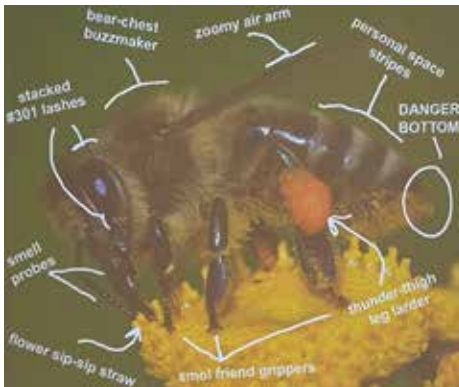


Diagram: statedclearly.com

When beekeepers talk about *the sting*, we're not talking about the movie with Robert Redford and Paul Newman.

The honey bee sting is what most people focus on but beekeepers know that there is a reason behind the sting and we appreciate the incredible structure of the stinger. The best description I've heard of the stinger given to beginning beekeepers comes from UGA's Dr. Lewis Bartlett. He calls it "the danger bottom."



perform is to freak out non-beekeepers by putting a drone bee in their mouths knowing that the male honey bee does not have a danger bottom.

The female honey bee stinger is a handy multi-tool. It combines a harpoon, a saw, and a pump

all in one stinger. Better still, all these tools work in unison to deliver venom, also known as apitoxin. The stinger is made up of a shaft, a muscle pump, a venom sac, and venom glands.

To start, the bee creates a puncture with the harpoon-like sharp sting shaft or stylus. Then the two sliding barbed saws (lancets) on each side of the shaft alternately draw the stinger into the wound using muscular articulation. One side retracts and pulls the stinger in while the other side catches and holds, and then it is repeated on the opposite side. Then the hollow shaft delivers the venom using the muscle pump. Honey bees are the only bee, out of thousands of bee species, that have a barbed stinger and usually die after stinging.

The barbed stinger is the cause of the bee's death. Once the



stinger is fully engaged and the venom delivered the bee flies away. In doing so, the stinger is detached from the bee's abdomen. It's not just the shaft of the stinger but also the venom gland and venom sac, part of the abdomen and digestive tract, plus muscles and nerves that are torn from the bee. She then dies within minutes. This is only the case if the bee is stinging something that has thick flesh such as a mammal. Honey bees can sting other insects without harming themselves.

Looking closely after a sting, you can see the venom sac continuing to pump after the bee has left. This is why beekeepers suggest that you quickly scrape the stinger off rather than trying to pinch it to pull it out. Pinching will simply push more venom into the wound.



Photo: carolinahoneybees.com

Queen honey bees have a barbed stinger but the barbs are tiny and she rarely stings. She saves her venom for other queens in order to eliminate her rivals. She can use her stinger to penetrate another queen's cell and kill her before she emerges. Beekeepers who handle a lot of queens can experience her sting because they have queen pheromone on them. Her smoother stinger means the queen can repeatedly sting without harming herself.

Most honey bees rarely sting when away from their hive. They use their stingers to defend the colony or if the bees have become aggressive for other reasons. It's hard to avoid swatting at a honey bee, but swatting is a good way to end up experiencing her danger bottom. 🐝



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! 🐝



Word Scramble Buzzle

Answer Key:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ramp | 13. Time | 25. Basketball |
| 2. Entrance | 14. Spray | 26. Syrup |
| 3. Excluder | 15. Cell | 27. Queen |
| 4. Frame | 16. Height | 28. Scouts |
| 5. Queencage | 17. Keys | 29. Ladder |
| 6. Oldcomb | 18. Car | 30. Pheromone |
| 7. Lure | 19. Straps | 31. Nasanov |
| 8. Container | 20. Camera | 32. Ventilation |
| 9. Drones | 21. Veil | 33. Scoop |
| 10. Spring | 22. Lemongrass | 34. Brush |
| 11. Young | 23. Comb | 35. Sheet |
| 12. Hive | 24. Clippers | |

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

Chattooga County Beekeepers



Congratulations to the Magnificent Queen and the Royal Drone who were chosen during the 2023 Valentine Social. Max and Janette Cordle are charter members of the Chattooga Beekeepers and absolute sweethearts!

Coweta Beekeepers Association

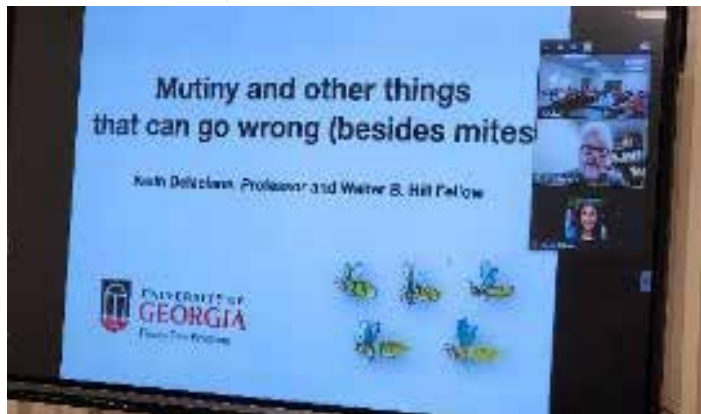
The Coweta Beekeepers Association held its annual short course on January 28th. A special thanks to **Bobby Torbush** who coordinated the all-day event with speakers, demonstrations, fellowship, and food. The club is pleased to welcome 67 new members for 2023!

On February 13th, **Corey Matheson** of **PopPop's Apiaries** spoke to the club about swarm traps, including suggestions on building, placing, and baiting for maximum returns.

Later that week, a number of new and veteran members traveled to Macon on February 17-18 to attend the GBA Spring Conference and Artisan Show. Congratulations to our own **Steve Page** who won 1st Prize in Beekeeping Gadgets for his syrup making barrel. 🍯



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, February 21st at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program "Mutiny and other things that can go wrong (besides mites)" was presented by **Dr. Keith Delaplane** via Zoom. Dr. Delaplane discussed how a colony of bees is considered a superorganism, genetics, and parasitic queens.

After a Q&A session with Dr. Delaplane, **Doug Romans**, president, updated the club on future programs. Members were reminded about our nuc sales and our upcoming beekeeping 101 class.

Please join us on March 21, 2023, for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 PM, and the regular meeting which begins at 7:00 PM. **Karen Palmer**, SE Director for GBA will be discussing beekeeping in South America. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook and at hogba.org. 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association welcomed **Dan Long**, the 2022 GBA Beekeeper of the Year. He graciously shared his techniques and tips for rearing quality queens. Dan showed LHBA members the tools they need and the best practices for grafting bee larvae along with demonstrating different methods for caging queens including his invention, the EZPZ Queen Cage. LHBA meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Hart Co. AgriScience Center in Hartwell. 🍯



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 Bee Club

On Monday, February 20th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club had the unique opportunity to have the CEO of Dalan Animal Health, **Dr. Annette Kleiser** (right), tell us about her company's development of the world's first vaccine for honey bees. While the vaccine specifically targets American foulbrood, Dr. Kleiser indicated that more vaccines will probably be developed for other bee diseases in the future. This is exciting news and has garnered attention nationwide and worldwide. We are happy that Dr. Kleiser chose Athens, GA for her base of operations, where she will be collaborating with **Dr. Keith Delaplane** of the UGA Bee Lab and **Dr. Joerg Mayer** of the Veterinary School. 🍯



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

In February, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association welcomed monthly meeting speaker **Dr. Joerg Mayer** (right). Mayer is a doctor of veterinary medicine at UGA, where he monitors honey bee colonies using many of the same methodologies – weight, temperature, activity, etc. – a veterinarian would use to monitor and treat other types of animals. During his engaging presentation, Mayer recommended some useful data collection practices hobbyist beekeepers can introduce into their beekeeping. During a mentoring session preceding the meeting, **Linda Tillman** offered tips on catching swarms.



On Saturday, February 25, MABA held the third of its ongoing **swarm trap build parties**. Twelve MABA members gathered to assemble 20 swarm traps that will be made available for purchase to MABA members. The goal of the program is to remove swarms from the environment and back into apiaries, and ultimately to eliminate the need for club members to purchase bees. To date, 60 swarm traps have been built. 🍯



TriCounty Beekeepers Association

At the TriCounty Beekeepers February meeting, TCB club secretary, **Olivia M Menard**, talked about spring build-up and gave some tips for spring management. Our March program will feature club president, **Bobby Chaisson**, who is previously a firefighter and EMT and has responded to emergencies and injuries of all types. Bobby will be talking about some of the more common risks of beekeeping and how to respond to them – *or avoid them altogether!* Visit us at tricountybeekeepers.net or [facebook.com/tricountybeekeepersga/](https://www.facebook.com/tricountybeekeepersga/) 🍯

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	Gabeepresident@gmail.com	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	Gabeevp@gmail.com	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	gabeeseecretary@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
Cindy Hodges	Metro Atlanta	HodgesHoney@gmail.com	770-861-2112
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
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	In person	Mar. 13	Propolis: History, Details and Usage – Melissa Smith of G's Beez	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Zoom	Mar. 2	Dr. Dewey Caron	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)	In person	Mar. 21	Beekeeping in South America – Karen Palmer	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	In person	Mar. 14	Installing Nucs & Package Bees	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

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@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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Hybrid	Mar. 21	Beeswax – Virginia Webb	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
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. 2	How To Prepare For New Hives And Beekeeping – David McDaniel	monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm	In person	Mar. 9	Combining Produce Business with Bee Business – Marcus Pollard	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	3rd Monday, 7pm	In person	Mar. 20	Swarming – PN Williams	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 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

Word Scramble Buzzle



It's Swarm Season!

All of the scrambled words below are associated with swarm season. All are single words except for five and six which are two words written as one. How many can you solve?

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. ARPM | _____ | 18. ARC | _____ |
| 2. CEAENTRN | _____ | 19. APRSTS | _____ |
| 3. DRELCUEX | _____ | 20. CAAMER | _____ |
| 4. EMARF | _____ | 21. LVIE | _____ |
| 5. GEUAECENQ | _____ | 22. LGNOEASMSR | _____ |
| 6. COLBDMO | _____ | 23. BCMO | _____ |
| 7. LREU | _____ | 24. RLPCIPES | _____ |
| 8. RTIEACNNO | _____ | 25. TSLBEAALKB | _____ |
| 9. DOSRNE | _____ | 26. UPRSY | _____ |
| 10. SGRPIN | _____ | 27. UEEQE | _____ |
| 11. OYNUG | _____ | 28. TSUSOC | _____ |
| 12. EVHI | _____ | 29. DDLRAE | _____ |
| 13. TMIE | _____ | 30. ORHPMOENE | _____ |
| 14. PAYRS | _____ | 31. NVSOAAN | _____ |
| 15. LCEL | _____ | 32. TVELNINOIAT | _____ |
| 16. EIHHTG | _____ | 33. OSOCP | _____ |
| 17. ESYK | _____ | 34. RBSHU | _____ |
| | | 35. TSEHE | _____ |

Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 18





Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're all getting busy with spring beekeeping in Georgia. You may already have picked up packages or nucs, caught swarms, made splits, prepared supers and generally made sure your apiaries are ready for the upcoming honey flow. *This is my favorite time of the beekeeping year!*

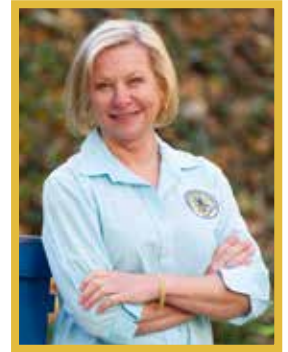
The GBA planning committee, chaired by **Julia Mahood**, is likewise busy making arrangements for our Sept. 21, 2023 conference. Once again, it will be held at the **Ramsey Conference Center** in Gainesville, GA. This will be our first conference at which the **Georgia Master Beekeeper Program** will lead us off on Thursday with lectures and testing for all levels – Certified, Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman.

Brutz English is Chair of the GBA Honey Shows and will be combining our Artisan and Honey Shows into a single event beginning at this September's event. This means there will be more than 60 categories for you to enter your honey, beeswax, arts, crafts and more this fall. Please watch for more information coming soon. Then review the show description carefully and especially read (and re-read) the rules for each entry. *There will be big cash prizes to win!*

Also, please read the structural cut-out reminder in this issue of *Spilling the Honey* (**see page 5**). It will be helpful for you to be able to answer questions from beekeepers and the general public about recent changes governing the removal of honey bees from buildings.

Lastly, we owe a round of applause to our newsletter team **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich**. Their daily work along with **Linda Tillman's** assistance with editing make this one of the best newsletters out there. Thank you.


- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

GBA: You've Come a Long Way Beeby!

Dr. Keith Delepane, professor and director of the honey bee program at UGA, sent this picture and the message below to GBA president Gina Gallucci.

"I attach a pic of the entire attendance of the GBA convention we hosted one year at my old lab in the mid-90s. There are some recognizable faces there. But the point is, you and your recent predecessors have pulled GBA from a backwater into the top tier of state associations." 



It's Time To Nominate Your 2023 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. This year's nomination period will open soon. Now is the time to consider who you might like to suggest as this year's recipient. 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



Dan Long, GBA's 2022 Beekeeper of the Year, accepts his award at last year's fall conference.

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 30, 2023. For complete details and nomination form, visit: gabeekeeping.com/Beekeeper-of-the-Year 🐝

UPCOMING OPTIONS FOR TAKING THE GEORGIA MASTER BEEKEEPING PROGRAM'S CERTIFIED TEST

By Jennifer Berry

The UGA Bee Lab had to make a very tough decision earlier this year to close the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute. But that doesn't mean the Georgia Master Beekeeping program is being dissolved. There are several clubs across Georgia that will offer testing for the certified level. Then, this September at the Georgia Beekeepers Association fall conference, the UGA Bee Lab crew will offer not only certified level testing, but also Journeyman and Master levels as well. For general questions concerning the Georgia Master Beekeeping program, please **contact Dr. Keith Delaplane at: ksd@uga.edu**

For questions concerning locations and timing of the testing, please contact the local associations directly.

CERTIFIED TESTING ONLY:

- **Metro Area Beekeepers Association** –
Academe of the Oaks (146 New St. Decatur, GA, 30030):
Saturday, May 6 (rain date May 13) **Click here to register.**
For more information, contact Claressa Lucas:
omygawdyall@gmail.com

- **Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association** –
Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center (3535 S
Lumpkin Rd, Columbus, GA 31903) Saturday, May 20, 1 p.m.
For more information, contact Luke Ellerman:
beekeeperluke@gmail.com
- **TriCounty Beekeepers** –
Lanier Bee Barn (742 Lords Mill Rd, Commerce, GA 30529),
Sunday, May 21 at 9 a.m. For more information, contact:
info@tricountybeekeepers.net

CERTIFIED, JOURNEYMAN & MASTER TESTING

- **Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Conference** –
Lanier Technical College, Gainesville, GA
Thursday, September 21st, 9 a.m. 🐝



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Derrick Fowler

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.



FEATURED GRANT PROJECT: Apitherapy Research



Save the Honey Bee license plate sale proceeds are supporting the work of veterinarian and professor Dr. Jörg Mayer as he explores the use of apitherapy to treat cancerous tumors in exotic pets. Mayer and his zoological medicine team at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine are currently seeing success using bee venom treatments with an Amazonian parrot cancer patient named McE. (See full story on next page.)



THE BIRD AND THE BEES:

Apitherapy Fights Cancer at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine

By **Peter Helfrich**


Among birds, McE is different. It's more than just the 43-year-old Amazon parrot's striking, brilliant, green plumage or personable nature that sets him apart. McE is also a terminal cancer patient.

Diagnosed a few months ago, McE's cancer is aggressive and will not respond to chemotherapy. The tumor is growing on the inside of the parrot's cloaca (part of the digestive tract), so surgery is not an option. Faced with a dire prognosis, McE's primary doctor, Dr. Jörg Mayer, a professor at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine, suggested a novel approach to treating McE's cancer: apitherapy.

According to Mayer, there is good evidence in the scientific literature supporting the use of honey bee venom to trigger potent anti-tumor activity. He believes when traditional oncology is not an option, apitherapy may be the last, best hope for cancer patients like McE. Mayer and his zoological medicine team at UGA are currently treating two avian patients with honey bee venom. So far, the results are encouraging and the tumors are controlled in these cases.

Such apitherapy treatments are obviously very experimental, Mayer says, but McE's owners understand that this is clinical research. McE's treatment has the potential to help not only other pet birds but also other small exotic pets where commonly used cancer treatments are often not an option. For example, Mayer and his team recently successfully used bee venom to treat a guinea pig with a non-resectable tumor. After several treatments, it's been four months since the animal has seen any tumor regrowth. Mayer feels there is much more to explore and learn in this area of study. He is appreciative of grant money he received from GBA's License Plate Proceeds fund, which is helping to support his promising ongoing work at UGA.

McE now receives ongoing injections of honey bee venom in order to induce anti-tumor fighting responses. Mayer monitors the treatment's effectiveness against the cancer using an endoscope, requiring McE to be heavily sedated. Regular blood checks are also needed to make sure the bird's liver, heart, and kidneys are not experiencing side effects from the bee venom.

It's believed that McE is the first parrot undergoing such an apitherapy regimen. It's unknown at this time whether the honey bee venom will cure the ailing parrot or just slow cancer growth temporarily. It's clear, however, that the therapy is helping veterinarians like Mayer gain valuable insights into cancer research. 




McE's cutting-edge cancer care comes at a steep cost. A GoFundMe™ page has been set up to help offset the expense of

these ongoing experimental treatments. Contributions in any amount to help cover these novel procedures and future monitoring of the progression of McE's tumor are deeply appreciated. **To help, click here.**



Structural Bee Removal Law Reminder

Starting this year, the Georgia state law changed concerning the removal of honey bees from structures. Now, honey bee colonies in structures can only be removed by a Georgia-licensed Honey Bee Control and Removal Operator (HBR). The act of removing honey bees from a structure without an HBR license can result in fines. Complete information can be found on the **Georgia Department of Agriculture website** under the Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission. 

CHAPTER 620-9 CONTROL AND REMOVAL OF HONEYBEES FROM STRUCTURES

Rule 620-9-.01 Definitions (1) Honeybee Control and Removal—means the control and removal of an established colony of honeybees from a structure by a Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator without the use of pesticides. (2) Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator—means a person who engages in the business of honeybee control and removal without the use of pesticides. (3) Structure—means any building, regardless of design or type of material used in its construction, whether public or private, vacant or occupied, and adjacent outside areas. (4) Cavity—means any area within elements of construction of a structure that provides honeybees space for residence. (5) Established honeybee colony—means any colony of honeybees that has established a nest in a cavity within a structure. (6) Free-hanging swarm—means a mass of honeybees which temporarily cluster on an object. (7) Open air hive—means a honeybee colony nest whose removal does not require modification or alteration of the structure. (8) Cut-out—means any act, process, or method of removing an established honeybee colony from within a cavity that involves alternation to the structure. (9) Trap-out—means any act, process, or method of removing honeybees by restricting their reentry leading them to abandon the nest. (10) Under the Direct Supervision of—means a competent person who engages in Honeybee Control and Removal acting under the instructions and control of a Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator that is present on site during the removal job. Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-45-8 Rule 620-9-.02 General Requirements (1) Control and removal of honey bees from a structure must be made consistent with the following: a. The use of any “pesticide” as defined in Rule 620-2-.01(z), to control, remove, or eliminate honeybees in, on, or under a structure shall be considered household pest control. 43 Effective July 1, 2021 b. The use of any “pesticide” as defined in Rule 620-2-.01(z), to control, remove, or eliminate honeybees in, on, or under a structure is prohibited unless the licensee holds a Household Pest Control License. c. “Honeybee control and removal” is limited to the control and removal of honeybees. The control, removal, or elimination of other types of bees requires a Household Pest Control license as defined in Rule 620-2-.01(s). (2) A honeybee control and removal contract shall be issued on all honeybee control and removal jobs in accordance with requirements of the Fair Business Practices Act of 1975, and the rules of the Federal Trade Commission, 16 C.F.R. 429, including disclosure by the licensee of the three (3) day right of cancellation. The terms of any contract extension beyond the original terms shall be indicated on the contract. The contract shall include a description of scope of work including the type of honeybee removal. (3) A cut-out, or open-air hive in a structure, honeybee control and removal job must include the removal of the honeybees, wax comb, honey, brood and other associated material and debris from the structure in addition to sealing all possible reentry points. (4) Every contract for a trap-out honeybee removal job type must contain the following statement, “This job will only remove honeybees. The wax comb, honey, brood and other associated material will remain in the structure and may result in reinfestation and secondary pest issues.” (5) Any person engaging in honeybee control and removal must be a Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator and must hold a Structural Pest Control Company

License in the Operational Category of Honeybee Removal. (6) Before being issued a Honeybee Removal Operator certification, the applicant must provide the Commission with satisfactory evidence of his or her qualifications including the following: a. Completed application form; b. Eight (8) hours of classroom training approved by the Commission and presented by a currently Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator or other person whom the Commission has determined to be competent to deliver training in the following areas: (i) State and Federal laws and regulations on Honeybee Control. (ii) Honeybee identification and types of live honeybee removals (cut-out, trap-out, and swarm removal) including basic removal techniques. (iii) Determining if there is an established honeybee colony, and how to locate a colony living inside of a structure. (iv) Proper cut-out removal techniques including basic construction knowledge, recommended tools, finding and caging the queen, preventing future infestations, saving comb and hiving the bees. (v) Trap-out techniques and negative consequences of leaving honeycomb, honey pollen and brood inside a structure. (vi) Eradication vs. Relocation including common insecticides/pesticides applied to honeybees by homeowners and PCOs. 44 Effective July 1, 2021 (vii) Potential safety and health hazards. c. Participation in a minimum of three (3) honeybee removal jobs. d. A score of at least (70) percent on a written examination covering the training; and e. Payment of an Operator Certification Fee. (7) Recertification: Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operators shall complete one of the following requirements prior to expiration of the five (5) year certification period: a. Complete a Commission approved five (5) hours of training such as a workshop, seminar, short course or training program that cover new information and subject matter necessary to insure continued competence on Honeybee Removal; or b. Complete the eight (8) hours of initial training required under Rule 620-9.02(6)b and pass a written examination. Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-45-8 Rule 620-9-.03 Exceptions (1) Persons working under the direct supervision of a Certified Honeybee Control and Removal Operator. (2) Removal of free-hanging swarms.





Catching Swarms Can Be Child's Play

By Marcus "Bee Pimpn" Pollard, Master Beekeeper

The first day of spring has come and gone. Flowers are in bloom; birds are chirping; the nectar flow is here; and bees are flying. With the coming of spring comes the start of the beekeeping season. Swarm control and capture are the tasks of the hour.

As most beekeepers are well aware, swarming is going to happen. It is the bees' natural propensity to do so in spring to propagate the species. As humans, many of us produce our own "swarms" of sorts and love to watch our offspring learn and grow as much as we enjoy our buzzing honey bee friends.

During this exciting time of the year, we can spread our love and knowledge of beekeeping by having both sets of progeny meet and interact. Because they are not protecting a home, food, or brood, honey bee swarms are much less likely than normal to display defensive behavior. This is the perfect opportunity to bring along a little helper while our fuzzy, winged friends are much more forgiving.

The natural allure of swarming bees is awe-inspiring! Mix that with the innate curiosity of a child and you have magic. I myself

have found great pleasure in spreading the joy of beekeeping to anyone willing – and often unwilling – to hear about this sweet endeavor. Compounding this joy is sharing my love of bees with my own "swarm," which I affectionately call Bumble. Bumble is my 3-year-old beekeeper who loves to go out and catch swarms. Donning his miniature bee suit, grabbing his mini smoker, and with dad in tow, he goes to work catching a low-hanging honey bee swarm. He fires off questions as quickly as bees leave the hive for a bountiful resource. His desire is to capture as many bees as he can. With each pass of the bee vac his addiction grows. Sweet memories are gained and lessons are learned.

Spreading the love of beekeeping to the younger generation is paramount to furthering the endeavor, increasing conservation efforts, and providing lifelong skills and passion. Often this passion we share can be all-consuming and we forget to take the time to cherish the time we have with those we love. I challenge you to bring a child with you on a swarm catch and watch that fire grow inside them. The experience is bound to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Keep the honey flowing and the love showing! 🍯

TOUR OF HIVES: Bruce Morgan's Apiary

By Kathy Bourn

I've heard the name Bruce Morgan since I started beekeeping almost a decade ago. I would hear someone ask where they could get good cypress hive bodies and the answer would be Bruce Morgan's place. If you needed supplies in central Georgia, where you would be sent to is Morgan's Apiary. Recently, if you asked a beekeeper where they got their well-built long Langstroth hive they would say Bruce Morgan built it.

Many of you have heard his name or know Bruce from the four bee clubs he attends, or from his long stint as president of Lake Country Beekeepers, or from talking to him at the GBA conferences. But most of you probably haven't had the chance to tour his apiary in Hancock County. If you do, you'll see his house, a huge woodworking building, his honey house, and hives out back. All this sits on land just outside of Sparta that his family has owned for generations, and where he and his brothers still live.

Bruce has been a woodworker and cabinetmaker since high school, but in 2005 his daughter, Dr. Amanda Ellis, and her husband Dr. Jamie Ellis got him mixed up with beekeeping when



Bruce Morgan's apiary and honey house sits on land just outside of Sparta that his family has owned for generations, and where he and his brothers still live. Inset: Among other equipment, Bruce builds quality long Langstroth hives.

they asked him to build hives for them. When your daughter and son-in-law have PhDs in entomology, that kind of thing is bound to happen. In 2006 he ended up with his own bees and managed up to 60 or so hives at one point. He was hooked after harvesting his first bottle of honey, which he still has in his honey house

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along with other award-winning samples.

Bruce retired from the Georgia State Public Service Commission in 2012 and was able to get Morgan Apiaries into full operation. He soon outgrew his backyard shed, so he bit the bullet and built a big woodworking shop. I have to say that I was drawn to his shop. It has all the woodworking toys you could want, and Bruce knows how to use them. He sets up each machine to do a specific job when making his hive equipment, such as one saw that has a special blade that just makes finger holds in hive bodies. His wife Theresa timed him once and discovered that he can make a medium hive body from start to finish in just five minutes.



He is a dealer for Rossman Apiaries (who specialize in cypress hives), but Bruce gets cypress wood (when he can) and makes his own cypress boxes as well. Bruce adds to this: swarm traps, wax blocks, and all the basic beekeeping supplies. I know several beekeepers who have ordered one of his long Langstroth hives. They are four-foot-long hives and are designed with two follower boards, either a solid or screened bottom, a hinged roof, and deep frames. While I was there, Bill Norris and his wife drove down from Madison to get a Langstroth hive for their granddaughter. Bruce says he has had folks from as far away as Wyoming come, specifically to buy equipment from him.

He and Mary Lacksen do what I call team beekeeping. Bruce now focuses on the equipment and Mary on the bees. That doesn't mean that Bruce doesn't start grabbing boxes when there is a swarm to catch. A big "two-cat" swarm landed in his yard and they both went to work. Bruce tried easing the dead branch down that they were on, but it broke, and the bees dropped to the ground. He just scooped up a couple of handfuls of bees and tossed them into the box. The rest soon marched in at a double-time pace. **Click here** if you want to see this classic bee march.



As much as Bruce enjoys woodworking, his real contribution to beekeeping is his desire to help educate both new beekeepers and non-beekeepers. His best advice to new beekeepers is to go slow and learn as you go. That is just one reason he was the 2013 GBA Beekeeper of the Year. He opens his apiary for hive inspection classes, puts on a course with the Lake County Beekeepers, and partners with the club to get an observation hive put installed in the Hancock County Library that he then helps maintain. There are probably hundreds of beekeepers who would name him as their mentor.



So, if you want to go on your own tour of hives, swing through Hancock county and meet the man whose name you probably already know, Bruce Morgan. 🍯

(From top) Mary Lacksen and Bruce are a beekeeping team; Bruce focuses on the equipment and Mary on the bees. Bruce's shop has all the woodworking toys a beekeeper could want. Award-winning jars of honey in Bruce's honey house. Folks from as far away as Wyoming have come to Hancock County specifically to buy equipment from him

If you know someone who has a beekeeping setup that would be good to feature in our *Tour of Hives*, please let us know. Send your suggestions to: **Kathy Bourn** at gbaneletters@gmail.com

🐝 Plants for Bees: Chinese Pistache Tree 🐝

By *Kathy Bourn*

Years ago, I picked up a half dozen, six-foot tall Chinese Pistache trees from Lowes for \$5 apiece. The greenhouse manager was trying to get rid of them. He ordered them because he knew what a great tree it is, but the buying public didn't seem to know about this tree. And I have to admit that I didn't realize that honey bees like it.

The Chinese Pistache is a great mid-sized tree that provides solid shade, beautiful color in the fall, has an interesting bark, and is good for pollinators. Also, it is drought and heat tolerant, easy to transplant, and pest resistant.

It is cruelly nicknamed the ugly duckling because it is gangly as a young tree but grows into a gorgeous specimen with an umbrella-like crown. A Chinese Pistache prefers full sun to achieve a

rounder shape and can adapt to most soil types. It is in the 6-9 hardiness zone and can grow quickly to 25'-35'. It tolerates urban areas well.

I have discovered that the fall color of the Chinese Pistache rivals maple trees and the color can vary from tree to tree depending on the soil and weather conditions. I have one that sits next to a Trident Maple and the two make a spectacular show. It produces small fruits in the form of a drupe in October.

The panicles of greenish/reddish flowers that are produced in the early spring attract the honey bees at the start of the honey flow. I first noticed this when I was standing under one of my trees and heard the bees. It was so loud that I thought I had a swarm but it was just the girls grabbing a meal! 🍯





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

Syrup Making Barrel

by **Steve Page**

This food-grade barrel with pump, plumbing, and hose makes up to 50 gallons of syrup. Fill the water to one of the zip ties on the pipe. The zip ties indicate the number of 50-pound sacks of sugar required. Turn on the pump and add the sugar and allow the water to swirl. When the sugar is dissolved, attach the hose to the spigot and close the ball valve partially to divert the syrup and fill the pails. About two gallons will remain when the pump stops pumping. Lift the barrel to pour the remaining into a pail.

The sump pump is rated up to 140° F. Hot water (120° F or less) will not damage the pump. Typically the water is 75-95° F when I start the pump to dissolve the sugar. The pump adds heat to the water while it is running.

I entered my syrup-making barrel in the competition at the Spring GBA Artisan Show in Macon and won first place (and \$100) in the gadget category. 🏆

Each zip-tie indicates the number of 50 pound sacks of sugar to add. For example with the water at the top zip-tie add five 50 pound sacks of sugar which will produce 50 gallons of syrup. 1:1 ratio by weight



Beekeeping for Dummies (5th Edition)

Howland Blackiston

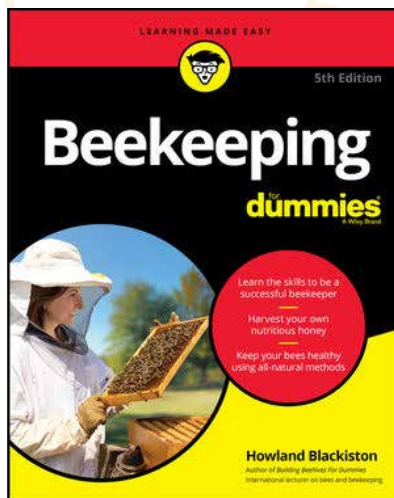
Book review by *David Hinton*

“What’s the best book for beginning beekeepers?” is the question I’m asked most often at the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association lending library table. I always hesitate to answer for several reasons. The question itself presumes that I have a knowledge of the wide range of beginner beekeeper books available. I don’t. And, it can’t truly be answered without answering another question: What are the qualities of the best book for beginner beekeepers? I’m dubious about answering that question as well.

But... The “Dummies” series is one of the most successful brands in American publishing, so I ordered a copy of their *Beekeeping for Dummies* for our lending library’s collection. I was so impressed, I decided to order a personal copy as well.

This book will certainly serve beginner beekeepers well, covering every possible topic they need to know, especially urban “backyard” beekeepers as they consider the challenges to getting started: environmental considerations, zoning and legal restrictions, costs and equipment, time and commitment (*crucial considerations!*), different approaches to beekeeping, and a thorough introduction to the biology of bees. The book provides detailed information on “Opening Your Hive,” “What to Expect When You’re Inspecting,” and “Different Seasons, Different Activities.”

My wife and I are no longer beginner beekeepers (although we often feel like we are!), but I decided to add a copy of this book for our personal library because it is full of information of benefit to all levels of beekeepers. In particular, the chapter on “Raising Your Own Queens” gives a better and more understandable overview of the subject than many books solely dedicated to the topic that I’ve encountered. The book offers detailed instructions for three different methods of queen-rearing: “go with the



flow” and follow nature by placing queen cells into a nuc box and making a split; the Miller Method; and the Doolittle Method, also known as grafting.

Beekeeping for Dummies has been one of the more successful books in the “Dummies” brand and is now in its fifth edition. The author’s introduction notes that while most of the content is aimed at those using the Langstroth hive, the fifth edition is revised to include information on the increasingly popular top-bar hives. At first, I was somewhat put off to discover pages of display ads at the back of the book, until I noticed that several

of them were actually quite attractive, including an ad with a coupon code for 25% off a subscription to *Bee Culture* magazine. I’m going to take advantage of that!

I do have one criticism of the book. I understand that the whole purpose of the book is to encourage people to become beekeepers, but I think the author could have been more rigorously honest. For example, he recommends that beginners start with just one hive. I agree with those who suggest that at least two hives are best — *don’t bet the farm on just one hive!* Also, I disagree with this statement from the section on costs and equipment: “What does it cost to become a beekeeper? All in all, beekeeping isn’t a very expensive hobby. You can figure on investing about \$200 to \$400 for a start-up hive kit, equipment, and tools... You’ll spend around \$175 or more for a package of bees and a queen. For the most part, these are one-time expenses.” He ends by calculating that the honey production for your first, start-up hive “should give you an income of \$320-\$560 per hive! Not bad, huh?” As I said, the author’s purpose is to encourage beginner beekeepers. 🍯

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 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! 🍯



BUZZLE ANSWER KEY: An Old-Fashioned Bee Poem



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

In March, the Coweta Beekeepers Association hosted **Melissa Smith** of G's Beez who educated our group on propolis. She explained the history and current uses, and offered a tasting sample of a tincture she created. The club has had a busy month full of workshops. Club Secretary **Pam Rentz** hosted an early-season hive inspection at her home. Two package installation workshops were held on March 18th and 21st. Following a short education session at the club apiary in Luthersville, **Steve Page** (below right) demonstrated a package installation. Club Director **Jim Picciola** hosted members for a supplemental demonstration at his home apiary. 🐝



Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

At our March meeting, **Bob Binnie** spoke to our club about old honeycomb and the risks associated with using it. He shared research that demonstrated the buildup of some pesticides in comb which can harm honey bees, as well as the very harmful synergies possible with combined chemicals that would otherwise be safer individually. Bob drove home the importance of rotating out old comb with real-world experiences from his own bees and others in the business. 🐝



Bob Binnie

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

On Saturday, March 18th Heart of Georgia Beekeepers held a beekeeping 101 class. With 24 prospective beekeepers in attendance, the class included basic bee biology, equipment, safety, beekeeper duties, and hive inspection. Due to inclement weather, the hive inspection was a video. The presenters were **Frank Grove, Jonathan Hayes, Emily Heath, and Doug Romans**, with **Kathy Sellers** taking pictures and helping with snacks and lunch. Attendees received approximately six hours of instruction.



(L to R) Javier Ayala, Karen and Jason Palmer



Frank Grove discussing equipment

At our March 21st meeting at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry, **Karen Palmer** gave a very informative program on beekeeping practices in Nicaragua and how the bees and techniques there differ. Since the bees are Africanized, hives must be a minimum of 200 meters (219 yards) from any dwelling. Other differences include using brown sugar to feed instead of white sugar, and hives usually only have one super. Karen and her husband **Jason Palmer** have a beekeeper from Nicaragua, **Javier Ayala**, working with them for three months. Javier accompanied Karen to the meeting and answered questions with Karen serving as the interpreter.

Please join us on April 18, 2023 for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 PM, and the regular meeting which begins at 7 PM. Our program will be on queen rearing. Check us out on **Facebook** or hogba.org. 🐝

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

The Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association welcomed Master Beekeeper **Olivia Menard** to our March meeting. She educated our members on some notable bee scientists who are not as well known as some, but have made important discoveries. The impact of their work is still felt today.



Our April 6 meeting will feature **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** and he will update us on his research at UGA focusing on small hive beetles. 🐝



Olivia Menard speaks at Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association meeting in March.

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



TriCounty Beekeepers

TriCounty Beekeepers club President, **Bobby Chaisson**, previous fireman and EMT, has responded to emergencies and injuries of all types. Bobby talked with our club about some of the more common risks of beekeeping and how to respond to them - or avoid them altogether!

Our April program will be the club's **annual spring cookout**. It's a pleasure to show our appreciation to all our members - new and returning. Thank you for making Tri-County Beekeepers the great club we are today!

Visit us at tricitybeekeepers.net or [facebook.com/tricitybeekeepersga](https://www.facebook.com/tricitybeekeepersga)



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At the March meeting of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, Georgia beekeeping legend **Virginia Webb** spoke about and demonstrated crafting beeswax candles and ornaments. Garnered from her decades of experience, Virginia shared tips and tricks for preparing wax and turning it into useful products beekeepers can sell or give as gifts. Prior to the meeting, a mentor time lead by **Kathy Bourn** and **Julia Mahood** focused on what to keep and have on hand in your beekeeping tool kit.

On April 18, MABA will welcome University of Minnesota entomologist **Dr. Marla Spivak**, who will be speaking about *Honey Bee Social Immunity and Breeding for Resistance to Varroa*. Mentor time will begin at 6:30 p.m., speaker at 7 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and fellowship with fellow beekeepers after the meeting.

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	Gabeepresident@gmail.com	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	Gabeevp@gmail.com	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	gabeeseecretary@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
Cindy Hodges	Metro Atlanta	HodgesHoney@gmail.com	770-861-2112
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	pastpresident@gabeekeeping.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	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall, 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6pm	Apr. 3	April Meeting & Pot Luck (bring a side dish or desert to share). Speaker: Ohio commercial beekeeper Howard Baldwin	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	Elijiah Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Elijiah, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Apr. 10	Master Beekeeper Olivia Menard will discuss her experiences at the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting and learning to hunt wild bees with Dr. Tom Seeley.	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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	Apr. 10	All About Honey Shows – Brutz English	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, 7pm			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)	Apr. 18	Queen Rearing	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Apr. 11	Second Quarter Honeybee Management	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* *(cont'd)*

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

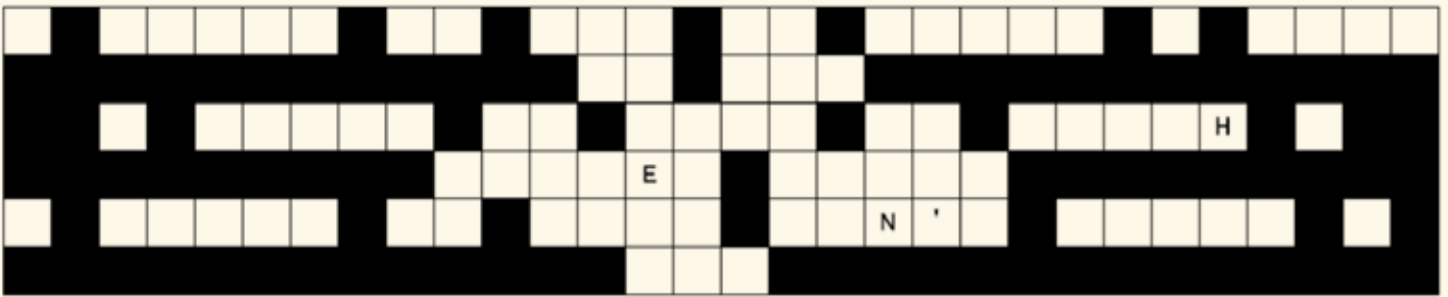
Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm			lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE AgriScience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 7pm			lakehartwellbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com	Hart
Little River Beekeepers	Cook County Ag Extension Adel, GA 31620	4th Tuesday, 6:30pm			info@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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Apr. 18	Honey Bee Social Immunity and Breeding for Resistance to Varroa – Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota	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, 5:30pm			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
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 Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	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	Apr. 10	Spring Member Appreciation Cookout	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

Secret Message Buzzle



An Old-Fashioned Bee Poem

Try to rebuild the message. The letters from each cell are below the puzzle.
 Try to rebuild the original poem by placing the letters in their correct cell.



L S

J U Y Y I A

A A W M M N N A J U Y I P I O R O A

A S W A R A I N I M O F L N S S W O N T H R T L A A

A S W S R M R I S I L V F R H E Y O S T W W O R T H O A D

Stumped?
 The answer
 key is on
page 12.





Spilling *The* Honey

MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

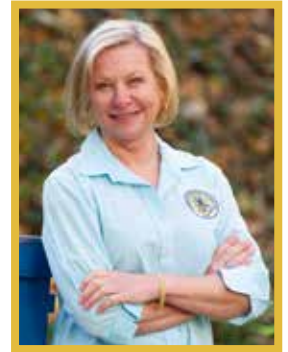
I hope this finds all of our members enjoying spring beekeeping!

A special meeting of the GBA Board of Directors was held on April 17 to discuss how to move forward on a couple of issues. After a thoughtful discussion, we voted to eliminate the Buzz Fund Grant program. This was a fantastic way for the general public and universities to fund beekeeping-related projects, but, now that we have the GBA *Save the Honey Bee* License Plate Grant program, it has become redundant. It has long been a tradition for local GBA clubs to donate a check to add to the Buzz Fund at our conferences, and we thank all of you who contributed to the Buzz Fund over the years.

The Board also had a discussion regarding updating the GBA bylaws. Jonathan Hayes is chairing that committee and will present the new version for a vote by members at our fall 2023 conference.

Mark Shields volunteered to be the chair of a newly formed GBA Swag/Merchandise committee. That committee will research items featuring GBA graphics which will be sold or raffled at the conferences.

I wish you all a productive summer honey bee season and hope to see everyone at our next conference.



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

Please mark your calendars:

September 21: UGA Master Beekeeper Program/Welsh Honey Judge classes and testing

September 22- 23: GBA Fall Conference and Honey Show (**see page 5** for important information about how our honey show is changing this year).



- *Gina*



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Derrick Fowler

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.



Tag...You're It

It's always nice to see a familiar site when you're at the tag office. **Mike Conner** was happy to see our GBA *Save The Honey Bee* license plates on the wall of his local Gwinnett County tag office.

The eye-catching design by **Julia Mahood** and the great beekeeping education it supports makes this one of the most wanted tags in the state. 📷



FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

Innovation Academy

By Mary Beth Hady

The Innovation Academy FCS STEM Magnet High School is located in Alpharetta, GA, where 9th and 10th graders are studying pathways related to healthcare, engineering, and IT. Our beekeeping club manages all aspects of the apiary, which was set up in the fall of 2021 using a GBA License Plate Proceeds Grant. We had an outstanding season in 2022, but sustained some losses over the winter. Our club income will cover the cost of replacing bees and adding a new hive as previously planned.

In the fall, we primed and painted our new hive, assembled frames, and we were able to extract some honey with our students. At our December meeting, we had our FCS food service

manager come to speak about the benefits of honey in health and provide some tasty snacks made in the cafeteria with our honey.

January and February meetings included cleaning and freezing of frames, and March's meeting included the set up of new hives and watching a video on installing new bees, which will arrive in April. Our DNA Club (with the City of Alpharetta's Old Rucker Road Park) has also participated in setting up an RFD gate on one of the hives, that tells us what kind of pollen the bees are bringing in. This will help our community learn which pollinator plants we should be planting in the area.

All of this would not be possible without GBA's financial help and support. *We cannot thank you enough!* 🍯



It's Time To Nominate Your 2023 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. This year's nomination period will open soon. Now is the time to consider who you might like to suggest as this year's recipient. Traditionally, past Beekeepers of the Year are not awarded the honor again.

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:

- **Dan Long, Chair** - Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association
- **Teri Meyer** - Forsyth Beekeepers Club
- **Linda Tillman** - Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association
- **Paul Berry** - Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers
- **Monica Shepard** - Rome Floyd 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. 🍯

GBA's 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.

Past Beekeepers of the Year

2022	Dan Long
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

UPCOMING OPTIONS FOR TAKING THE GEORGIA MASTER BEEKEEPING PROGRAM'S CERTIFIED TEST

By *Jennifer Berry*

The UGA Bee Lab had to make a very tough decision earlier this year to close the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute. But that doesn't mean the Georgia Master Beekeeping program is being dissolved. There are several clubs across Georgia that will offer testing for the certified level. Then, this September at the Georgia Beekeepers Association fall conference, the UGA Bee Lab crew will offer not only certified level testing, but also Journeyman and Master levels as well. For general questions concerning the Georgia Master Beekeeping program, please **contact Dr. Keith Delaplane at: ksd@uga.edu**

For questions concerning locations and timing of the testing, please contact the local associations directly.

CERTIFIED TESTING ONLY:

- **Metro Area Beekeepers Association** – Academe of the Oaks (146 New St. Decatur, GA, 30030): Saturday, May 6 (rain date May 13) **Click here to register**. For more information, contact Claressa Lucas: omygawdyall@gmail.com

- **Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association** – Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center (3535 S Lumpkin Rd, Columbus, GA 31903) Saturday, May 20, 1 p.m. For more information, contact Luke Ellerman: beekeeperluke@gmail.com
- **TriCounty Beekeepers** – Lanier Bee Barn (742 Lords Mill Rd, Commerce, GA 30529), Sunday, May 21 at 9 a.m. For more information, contact: info@tricountybeekeepers.net

CERTIFIED, JOURNEYMAN & MASTER TESTING

- **Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Conference** – Lanier Technical College, Gainesville, GA Thursday, September 21st, 9 a.m. 🍯

Go BIG at GBA's Fall Honey Show

By **Brutz English**, Senior Honey Judge and GBA Honey Show Committee Chair

The Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Conference has long been home to GBA's annual honey and beeswax show. This honey show has been the premier exhibition of honey and beeswax products in the southeast for the better part of the last decade. GBA's spring artisan show grew into a similar outlet for arts and crafts related to beekeeping and for food and beverage items made with honey. Both shows have proven very popular over the years, and having the categories split as we have done has given each show a unique character.

However, these shows weren't always separate events. They were once one, and they were split into two out of necessity and by design. For many years the GBA had only one honey show each year, but with the advent and implementation of the Welsh judging system in the early 2000s things began to change. The consistency, clarity, and reliability imparted by the Welsh judging vastly improved our honey shows. With those improvements, over time, participation in the state honey show started to grow.

By 2015, the GBA State Honey Show had become so popular and had grown so much, the existing body of Welsh judges could no longer get all of the exhibits judged in a single morning and afternoon. There were just too many exhibits to judge all in one go. The Welsh judges and the GBA brass of the day got together and devised a plan to alleviate the burden of trying to take in and judge all of those exhibits in one day. It was decided to split the show into two events and have one at each of the GBA's annual conferences. This was a great plan, and it worked really well.

That change was necessitated by the circumstances of the day,

and today we face some new circumstances that once again necessitate some change. As you may know, our beloved Young Harris Beekeeping Institute has gone the way of the passenger pigeon. The GBA has heroically agreed to take on incorporating several of the Young Harris programs into our annual conferences. Part of this realignment and reallocation of resources means we are going to have to make some adjustments to our two annual honey shows. These changes may be permanent, or if they prove too problematic, they may be temporary. We will decide and adapt as we go, but we have decided the best course of action (based on what we know at this time) is to go back to a single state honey show beginning at this year's 2023 Fall Conference.

We now have more than two dozen certified honey judges available, and because of the additions of the Young Harris programs, we will have an extra day at the GBA Fall Conference. We believe we have the resources to make a combined Georgia State Honey Show work. *All we need to knock it out of the park is YOU!*

This year's GBA Honey Show will have more than sixty categories. Prize money for 2nd and 3rd places is being increased to \$50 and \$30, respectively. The Best in Show winner and Sweepstakes winner will EACH receive \$1,000.00. We don't have the final draft of the rules done just yet, but the total prize pot for this honey show will almost certainly top \$12,500! This will be the largest prize pool offered for any honey show in North America in living memory. You have to enter to win though. So, start preparing now. All of your old favorites will be there – from both shows. Get planning and get those exhibits together. We want to see you there. Let's GO BIG together! 🍯

Beginning with this year's 2023 Fall Conference, GBA will return to a single state honey show featuring more than 60 competition categories for honey and beeswax, as well as arts and crafts previously found at the spring artisan show.



Prepare your entries and enter the 2023 GBA Fall Honey Show.

THE 3D PRINTER AS A HIVE TOOL

By Linda Tillman

EZPZ queen cages being 3D printed at Dan Long's printer farm, and finished cages in action in the field (inset).



Several creative beekeepers in Georgia are employing a new hive tool. When challenged by a beekeeping need, they turn to their 3D printer and simply design and print out a gadget to meet their wish. *Voilà!* A new piece of beekeeping equipment.

Your basic home printer communicates with your computer and uses ink to print on paper. The word printed immediately brings to mind a flat surface, but much, much more is now possible. A 3D printer is a kind of miniature factory. The 3D printer uses spools of plastic filament to create items in layers. The plastic layers generated by the printer melt together according to the program that you upload. It is amazing that something three dimensional can be printed.

Many beekeeping designs for 3D are available on community 3D printing websites (*e.g.*, **Thingiverse**, **Printables**, and **STLfinder**) providing all kinds of plans and designs for 3D printing anything from hive entrances to a roller to create honeycomb impressions on wax sheets. The open source nature of these community sites allows most designs to be downloaded and used by anyone. Searching with the term “beekeeping” on Thingiverse resulted in at least 425 designs. The open source designs included feeders for mason jars, hive entrances, and frame holders. One of the most unique was a “Bee Life Raft,” a floating disc with holes big enough for a bee to drink through while not falling in the water source and drowning.

The four Georgia beekeepers interviewed for this article all use community websites for designs, but each is proud of their

own derivative creations. Dan Long in Athens, Georgia, invented the **EZPZ queen cage** (patent pending). The cage, created on a Creative Ender 3 v2 3D printer, surrounds your queen cell and

Continued on following page

Wayne Hughes uses 3D printing to solve a variety of beekeeping challenges, including simplifying record keeping with 3D-printed QR codes for each hive.



THE 3D PRINTER AS A HIVE TOOL *(continued)*



Clockwise from above: Mark Shields of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association with his 3D printing farm; Ryun Forsman of Lake Hartwell Beekeeping Club with a few of the nifty 3D-printed beekeeping accessories he sells via his Etsy store, including pocket frame rests, frame spacer, and magnetic hive tool holder.

protects it as the queen develops. He designed this and created it on his personal 3D printer farm. (And no, the printers are not in a field. Like a pride of lions or a murder of crows, if you own more than one 3D printer and make things on them, you have a 3D printer farm!)

When asked where he gets his ideas, Dan said, “Some are simple and logical like an organizer tray for my beekeeping toolbox. Others are filling a need or making life simpler. Beekeeping is

complicated enough. Anything that makes it easier is worth trying.”

Mark Shields and Wayne Hughes both create labels on their 3D printers to identify their hives. These are QR code identification plaques and simple numbered labels. Mark uses Hive-Bloom to manage his hives; Wayne uses ApiManager, a program which generates a unique QR code for each

hive. The beekeeper can scan the coded plastic label affixed to a hive and be taken straight to the software for hive record keeping.

Wayne Hughes of Sweet Harmony Apiaries is truly a self-made 3D printer expert. He wanted to understand the thermodynamics of the hive and built thermo sensors for his hives. Wayne taught himself to code so he could program the sensors. He became fascinated with the possibility that the sophisticated 3D printer offers. His coding ability gave him the skill to design and print



housing for the thermo sensors as well as for weight sensors. He currently has a hive design with a patent pending. Hopefully he will build this hive using 3D printing.

Ryun Forsman of Lake Hartwell Beekeeping Club has an expansive 3D printing operation. His interest in 3D printing began in 2017 when he and his son Bryce visited a friend with a 3D printer in Charlotte. Bryce saw the friend’s 3D printer and “fell in love,” Ryun says. Within an hour, his son had designed a small simple model of a gun and printed it up. Ryun ordered a 3D printer for his family and his son was off and running. Bryce is a senior in high school and a talented CAD modeler.

Ryun became a beekeeper in 2019 and now he is the main user of the family 3D printer. **Ryun operates an Etsy store** where he creates and sells pocket frame racks, magnetic hive tool holders, frame spacers, honeycomb coasters, earrings, and key chains. And the list of items continues to expand.

Continued on following page

Here are the printers used by our four Georgia 3D creators:

- Wayne uses an ESnapmaker 2.0 A35
- Mark uses two Prusa Minis.
- Ryun has three 3D printers: Creality Ender 3, Creality CR-10, Elegoo Neptune 3 Max
- Dan has seven 3D printers: Ender 3 pro, Ender 3 V2, Ender 3 S1 pro and four Sovol SV01

THE 3D PRINTER AS A HIVE TOOL *(continued)*

The art involved comes into play in making the magnetic hive tool. Ryun has to stop the printing at just the right moment to add the magnet to the melting plastic. While the hive tool holder is probably his best seller, Ryun's favorite item is the first beekeeping item he printed in 3D, a pocket frame rack. The frame racks (they come in pairs that will fit in your pocket) are based on someone else's design, but Ryun tinkered with it and made it his own. Ryun has even designed cut comb squares to put directly into the hive for the bees to make cut comb honey, like Ross rounds but square.

Mark Shields quoted Steve Jobs, saying, "Good artists copy; great artists steal" when asked where he gets his designs. "I reuse existing designs freely available," Mark added. The generosity of creators of beekeeping devices is outstanding. Mark Shields and Wayne Hughes found online free designs to each print 600 entrance reducing discs for the MABA Swarm Trap Cluster Project.

Some challenges to using 3D as a beekeeping tool are that the printers are not cheap. Ryun's first printer cost \$600. There are some available now that are only \$250, however. The printing materials are also an expense. A spool of filament runs around \$17. And you do have to know what to order. Some of the plastic is food-grade; some is sturdier; some plastic can hold up better when exposed to the elements. All filaments require constant drying, otherwise print quality suffers, potentially leading to printer nozzle clogs. As you can imagine, the 3D equipment decision-making can be rather complex.

The capability of the 3D printer rests in understanding how to manage speed and temperature. And as Ryun says, "While in some things we say the sky's the limit, in 3D printing, the size of the print bed is the limit." And of course, the larger the machine, the more expensive it is.

I asked each of these creators how they saw the future of 3D printing in beekeeping. Their answers were each different:

Dan Long answered: "3D printers have become less expensive and more user-friendly than ever. I think eventually they'll be as normal in a home as a dishwasher."

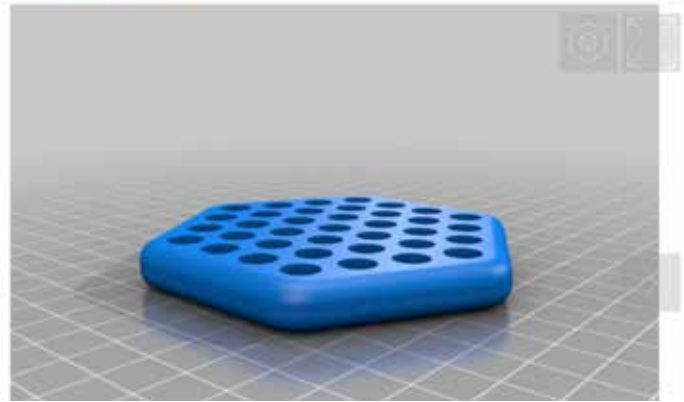
Mark Shields: "Filament is expensive; I don't see it replacing standard equipment, but 3D printing does unlock the ability for home users to design their own niche products."

Wayne Hughes: "Beekeepers are notoriously cheap, so the initial cost of a 3D printer will probably scare many off. It's a hard thing to justify, especially if you're not going to sell the items. I do think it will grow and become more popular, but I don't know that it will become mainstream. But the idea that everyone would have a 3D printer and be able to bring an idea into reality is fascinating and inspiring."

Ryun Forsman: "Depends on materials and size of printers - there's definitely an advantage in making small items, but frames? It's cheaper to buy wood. But if plastic prices go down..."

Just exploring Thingiverse feels like looking at a bee catalog for

Bee Life Raft
by cypher97341783259 March 13, 2023



Above: An open source design found on Thingiverse, the "Bee Life Raft" is a floating disc with holes big enough for a bee to drink through while preventing drowning. Dan Long evaluates the effectiveness of a new 3D printed entrance device. Ryun Forsman's 3D printed cut comb squares.

the first time - so many ideas, so many choices. In 2006, the first 3D printer became available to the common citizen. With the advent of 3D printers owned by individuals, lots of people have developed ideas for how to use these machines and have shared their designs with others on the Internet.

These four Georgia beekeepers are each bringing inventiveness and creativity to their beekeeping through the use of their newest hive tool, a 3D printer. What would you like to see them make? 🐝



Saving Bees In Trees

By Deb DeWitt

Atlanta has the distinction of being the most forested major city in the U.S.—aptly earning the title “A City in the Forest.” A dense and diverse tree canopy covers much of the metro and surrounding areas. This impressive natural resource provides an attractive and inviting place to live, not only for humans, but our apian friends as well. Hosting trees of all ages, it’s no surprise a fair number are centenarians. Many of these Grande Dames of the canopy are now in the twilight of their lives. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to assist bee rescues in these magnificent trees.

In early 2022, an enormous 100-year old water oak, was scheduled to be cut down. A feral honey bee colony inhabited the tree and the owner, concerned for the bees’ safety, contacted me. While I had no experience with a rescue like this, I had a clear idea

of what I thought would work. Boutte Tree Services, contracted for the tree removal, was a generous collaborator. With their tree cutting expertise and my beekeeping tools to assist their arborist and crew, we saved not only the bees but kept the colony safely inside the tree nest during the entire process. By screening the bees in, the crew was able to cut above and below the nest cavity, gently bringing the trunk to the ground via their 70’ crane. The trunk remained upright the entire time to avoid comb inside collapsing on itself. We grossly underestimated how large the trunk would be—with it ultimately measuring 10’ tall, 4’ wide and 4,000 lbs! Boutte once again saved the day by moving it to its final resting place, in my back yard.

By happenstance, a few months later a neighbor’s dying tree was

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Above Left: The 100-year-old water oak housed a feral hive, which is located at the base of the right fork of the tree. Above Right: The author standing next to the monster tree trunk. The nest cavity is screened, but perfectly positioned at eye level, for viewing.

Saving Bees **In Trees**

Continued from previous page

scheduled for removal—and Boutte was on the job. Unbeknownst to the crew, honey bees lived in one of the upper branches of the canopy. Since it was a surprise, they hadn't planned for, I received a call from the arborist on short notice. The section containing the nest cavity was already on the ground, safely harvested. With little time to locate a new home for the tree and bees, I found just the right steward in a fellow beekeeper who, like me, was interested in bee trees. He owned a sawmill and had the equipment to move the heavy trunk onto his property in Loganville. By the next day, had welded a stand to keep the tree upright and off the ground, and had constructed a top to close of exposed nest cavity.

This spring, I received a call from one of Boutte's arborists about another tree with bees slated for removal. Well past its life, and with a hollow core, it posed a danger to the densely populated street and old apartment building it leaned toward. The colony was about 30'-40' high and a previously attempted trap out had been unsuccessful, leaving most of the bees clustered and vulnerable on the exterior unable to reenter their home. Working with the arborist, we coordinated plans on tree removal day to vacuum the bees from the exterior, save their nest cavity and reunite them afterwards. I brought safety gear for the crew, tools for screening in and/or vacuuming the bees, and we got to work. In short order we wrapped up the job and the bees and tree were off to their new home in Smyrna with a fellow beekeeper and club mate who I know will be the best of stewards.

In all three cases, I was over the moon to receive the calls from Boutte's arborists and grateful for their willingness to collaborate. As a curious beekeeper, finding wild bees in their natural habitat is amazing, and being able to observe them up close is the rarest of gifts. As a Master Beekeeper, creating connections with other professionals, forging new relationships, and finding shared opportunity to teach, learn or make a difference is priceless. 🍯

Deb DeWitt received her Master Beekeeper Certification from Cornell University in 2022. She is currently working on her Journeyman Certification from UGA. She is Vice-President of Tara Beekeepers, and is the Committee Chair for the Cindy Hodges Young Beekeeper Scholarship for Metro Atlanta Beekeepers.

Do you know of any feral hives?

I am interested in collecting data on feral honey bee colonies. Specifically, I am interested in gathering information to map where the colonies are located, how long they have been in the location, how often they cast off swarms, and any other pertinent facts you may know about the bees. I am not interested in trapping them and only wish to let them be. If you know of a feral bee colonies living near you, I'd love to hear from you. I can be reached at deb.dewitt@gmail.com.



Top: The bee tree is loaded up and ready to go home with its new owner to Loganville. Middle: A metal base is welded and attached to the tree before it is moved into place. Bottom: Close up of bees settling into their new location.

TOUR OF HIVES: Mary Lacksen's Apiary

By Kathy Bourn

All you have to do is take a look at the bed of Mary Lacksen's truck to know that she is a serious beekeeper. The swarm-catching gear is organized, there are jugs of sugar syrup, and extra hive bodies and frames are at the ready. This is what your truck looks like when you're in the bee business.

After getting her master's degree in agriculture at the University of Illinois and postgraduate work at Michigan State University, Mary made her way down to Hancock County, Georgia, to her husband's family farm. The thousands of acres of the farmland provided the base for a tree-planting business and now a bee business. It also provided a great place to raise their four children, who are now grown.

Mary caught the beekeeping bug after attending the Young Harris



Beekeeping Institute in 2008. Fifteen years later, she now runs BeeCo Apiaries just outside of Sparta. With help from her family, especially her daughter Katherine, and her friend and mentor

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Bruce Morgan, Mary works anywhere from 60 to 130 hives. BeeCo provides nucleus colonies, packages, honey, and queens. She also moves her bees to the mountains every year so she can provide her customers with sourwood honey. While running a full-time bee business Mary also achieved her Georgia Master Beekeeper certification in 2021.

As a member and past president of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association, Mary works to get the general public interested in honey bees and to support fellow beekeepers. The club puts on an annual bee school and has open inspection days. Mary and her daughter Katherine secured funding from The Bee Cause Project to have an observation hive installed at the Hancock County Library and the Lake Country club now maintains it. She is also active in three other local clubs, GBA, and Eastern Apiculture Society, and she is a featured speaker at clubs and events throughout the state.

Mary's apiary for BeeCo is set up among the beautiful tall pines on her farm. She has different yards set up in several areas but her base is at her house which was built on the site of the farm's original antebellum home. Many of the outbuildings have been converted for use in beekeeping. One building, which used to be a house, provides a place to store equipment, do some teaching, and have a queen grafting setup. Even the machine shed, with all the old farm tools at hand, provides a place to set up a syrup mixing system.

The bees that Mary works are a combination of Carniolans from Bob Binnie, Italians, and hygienic queens from Amy Weeks. She got serious about producing queens and completed Dr. Marla Spivak's queen-rearing course at the University of Minnesota in 2017. She has her cell starter/finishers set up near her grafting building and you can tell from the beekeeping shorthand on the hive covers that she keeps close tabs on them. Mary's plan for the future is to perfect and expand her queen-rearing and to keep the beekeeping in central Georgia going strong. 🍯



(From top) The bed of Mary's pickup truck holds everything a beekeeper might need in the field. Many of the outbuildings on the farm have been converted for use in beekeeping. Mary is serious about producing quality queens and completed Dr. Marla Spivak's queen-rearing course at the University of Minnesota in 2017. Shorthand on the hive covers reveals that Mary keeps close tabs on her bees. Above right: Even the machine shed provides a place to set up a syrup mixing system.

If you know someone who has a beekeeping setup that would be good to feature in our *Tour of Hives*, please let us know. Send your suggestions to: **Kathy Bourn** at gbanewsletters@gmail.com



Plants for Bees: Eastern Redbud

By Kathy Bourn

In the early spring, pollinators in the eastern part of the United States get a boost from the Eastern Redbud tree (*Cercis canadensis*). This native tree has small bright pink to purple flowers that a variety of pollinators will forage on. Bees that visit redbuds include bumble bees, mason bees, mining bees, sweat bees, and, of course, our honey bees. It is an early source of both pollen and nectar. In addition, the tree is the host plant to Henry's elfin butterfly and the Io moth.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has deemed this tree of special value to native bees because it attracts large numbers of them as well as providing nesting materials (leafcutter bees are especially fond of the Eastern Redbud's soft leaves for nest construction).

The Eastern Redbud is hardy in zones 4-9, has a medium growth rate of 10'-20' per year, and reaches a height and spread of 20-30'. It can be pruned to stay compact or allowed to grow to its full height. It tolerates both full sun and part shade and a variety of soil types. Redbuds make good sidewalk trees because they rarely heave the concrete with their roots.

In the fall, the peapod-shaped seed pods are a welcome food to birds and mammals alike which is why the tree readily self-seeds. Adding an Eastern Redbud trees to your property is a win-win, delivering color and shade for you while providing food and housing for bees and other wildlife. 🍯



Wild Honey Bees: An Intimate Portrait

Ingo Arndt (photography) and Jurgen Tautz (text)

Book review by *David Hinton*

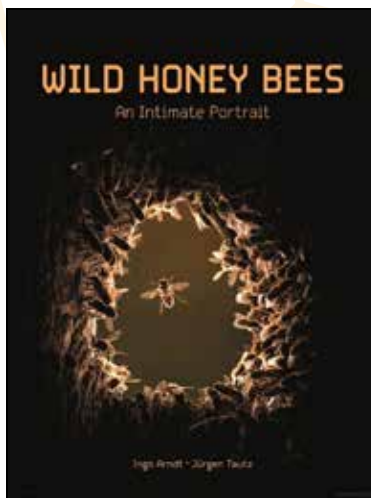
At a pre-pandemic Nashville Area Beekeepers Association (NABA) meeting, Tennessee State Apiarist Mike Studer made an observation that I have never forgotten: that wild bees (I think he used the term “feral bees”) in Tennessee were extinct and it was up to us – amateur and commercial beekeepers –to perpetuate the existence of the honey bee.

I never forgot those words because they are such a dismal thought. If wild bees are disappearing, is there any hope for planet Earth?

But hope returned as I read *Wild Honey Bees: An Intimate Portrait* by Ingo Arndt and Jurgen Tautz. Wild honey bees are alive and well, at least in the forests of Germany. The book documents, in stunning photography and informative text, the wild honey bees that flourish in the forests of Germany. Jurgen Tautz, the author of the book’s text, is a professor and chair of bee research at the University of Wurzburg, Germany. Tautz notes that “A remarkable number of honey bee colonies still exist, living in hollow trees inside the forest, largely unnoticed by humans and in greatly underestimated numbers. . . .these honey bees, original dwellers of the forest, are better able to cope with diseases and parasites than our pet bees.”

So why do they flourish in German forests and not in America? I am hardly a scientist, but I have lived in Germany for three years, including two years on the edge of one of Germany’s most important forests, the Odenwald (Odin’s forest). From this experience, I learned the importance of forests to the German people, indeed to the German psyche. The forests are at the heart of Germanic mysticism and romanticism. In the Odenwald near where I lived in Ziegehausen (a suburb of Heidelberg) was the location where, according to German mythology, the hero Siegfried slayed the dragon Fafner. Germans treat their forests as something sacred, carefully tended by a corps of professional forest rangers. The complex ecosystem of the German forest, with its variety of interdependent flora, fauna, and microorganisms, is vigorously protected. And while Monsanto is now a German-owned corporation, its infamous product Roundup and other Glyphosate-loaded herbicides are banned by German and European Union laws. Honey bees and other insects are protected by these laws in ways that their American counterparts are not.

Tautz notes an important difference between American forests and the protected German forests: “Commercially optimized



forestry has led to forests being clearly laid out as delineated monocultures in order to simplify processing, and to them no longer bearing any resemblance to the healthy, well-balanced forests that once existed.” While America does have protected natural forest areas, they are often (usually?) surrounded by commercial forests—as in Tennessee. Tautz further explains that such habitats are especially vulnerable to parasites and climate change, and argues that the natural conditions found in a hollow tree trunk offer protection not afforded by the standardized wooden boxes employed by beekeepers.

The authors, however, are not opposed to the human activity of beekeeping. As they conclude: “Both realities should co-exist – bee colonies cared for by beekeepers for our mutual benefit, and wild bee colonies which constitute an important component of the forest ecosystem. Beekeepers can offer their honey bees the best possible living conditions and can at the same time profit from the natural selection that takes effect among wild bee colonies.”

What protections do German wild bees have that American bees don’t? I was amazed to learn about the Pseudoscorpion (book scorpion), the great natural ally of wild bees in Germany. They are small (the size of a pin head) and, like varroa mites, attach themselves to the bodies of honey bees. But, with their extended pinchers, they are voracious eaters of varroa mites!

(If this catches your attention as it did mine, **here’s some additional information, including a German book scorpion enthusiast who sells packages to beekeepers!**)

Despite its intriguing text, Beekeepers will most love this book for the beauty of its photographs by Ingo Arndt, who is regarded as one of the world’s leading wildlife photographers. The pictures in this book, often rendered in two-page spreads, are the most stunning photographs of bees that I have ever seen. Arndt shot more than 74,000 pictures over an eight-month period, often hanging from a rope 66 feet off the ground. He utilized the most advanced technology to capture photos of bees living and working in these natural forest habitats. 🍯

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 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! 🍯



BUZZLE ANSWER KEY:

A Famous Bee Poem

Poet: Emily Dickinson, written in 1755



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

Beekeepers of Gilmer County

April has been a busy month for the Beekeepers of Gilmer County. Last week six volunteers gave their time and knowledge about honey bees to 123 second graders and staff at the **Ellijay Elementary School**. This was coordinated with the STEM teacher Ema Henson who was given a bottle of our local honey after the presentation.

At the Ellijay Fairgrounds the following Saturday, several volunteers educated the general public on the crystallization of honey and how to solve this "problem." Excerpts were taken from the report by Khalil Hamdan on the *Crystallization of Honey*. Some folks were throwing honey away – can you imagine that? 🍯

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, April 18th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. Our program was presented by **Jonathan Nixon**, a commercial beekeeper, and the Dept. of Agriculture's honey bee inspector. Jonathan shared his experience of sending colonies to California for almond pollination and his routine with his bees. He also discussed his duties as the honey bee inspector. His talk was very interesting and informative.

Please join us on May 16, 2023, for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 pm, and the regular meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. Our program will be on queen rearing. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out at www.hogba.org. 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

What is that little dark beetle in my beehives and what does it do?!? **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** answered those questions at the April Lake Hartwell Beekeepers meeting. Dr. Bartlett talked about his extensive research at UGA concerning the small hive beetle.

LHBA meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Hart School System AgriScience Center at 6:30 pm. 🍯



Dr. Lewis Bartlett discusses his research on small hive beetles.



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At its April meeting, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association welcomed **Dr. Marla Spivak** (above), Distinguished McKnight Professor of entomology at the University of Minnesota. She has been a pioneer in developing the hygienic traits in races of honey bees that lend vigor and varroa tolerance. In her talk titled "Honey Bee Social Immunity and Breeding for Resistance to Varroa," Marla spoke on recent news and successes on this front.

On May 16th, MABA will welcome **Dr. Michael Smith**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences at Auburn University and Affiliate Member of the Max Planck Institute for Animal Behavior. He will be speaking on *Imperfect Comb And The Architectural Abilities Of Honey Bees*. 🍯

Tricounty Beekeepers



Members of the Tricounty club gather for their annual member appreciation spring cookout last month.

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 Bee Club

In the last few months, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club had two very timely presentations. In March, **Harold Lanier** gave us an in-depth presentation on swarms, and in April, **Mary Lacksen** shared her knowledge of how nucs can play an important role in the bee yard. We'd like to publicly thank those involved with the GBA license plate fund for helping sponsor some of our speakers this year. 🐝



Coming soon! Pollinator garden flat sale

Are you ready to plant your own pollinator garden? The UGA Bee Program is here to help with our new pollinator garden flats! The flats include 27 plants and are \$100 – stock is limited, all proceeds go to support bee research. We have carefully picked flowering plants that will attract a variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects to your yard. We want your pollinator garden to be successful, so we have chosen plants suited for the Piedmont region of Georgia.

Flat will be available for pick up on May 20 from 10 – 2 p.m. at the UGA Bee Lab (1221 Hog Mountain Road). There will be bee lab personnel on hand to answer questions about your plants as well as other varieties of pollinator plants for sale on this day. Checks or cards are the preferred method of payment on site. No cash! [Click here for more information.](#)



*This photo depicts the most unusual swarm retrieval I have ever experienced. A primary and a secondary swarm landed in the same place, very convenient for my retrieval. I gently vacuumed them up in two different wire-screened baskets. I installed them each in hive bodies with drawn comb and a couple of frames each of brood and they are off and running! – **Sam Alston** (a.k.a. Sam the Beekeeping Man)*

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

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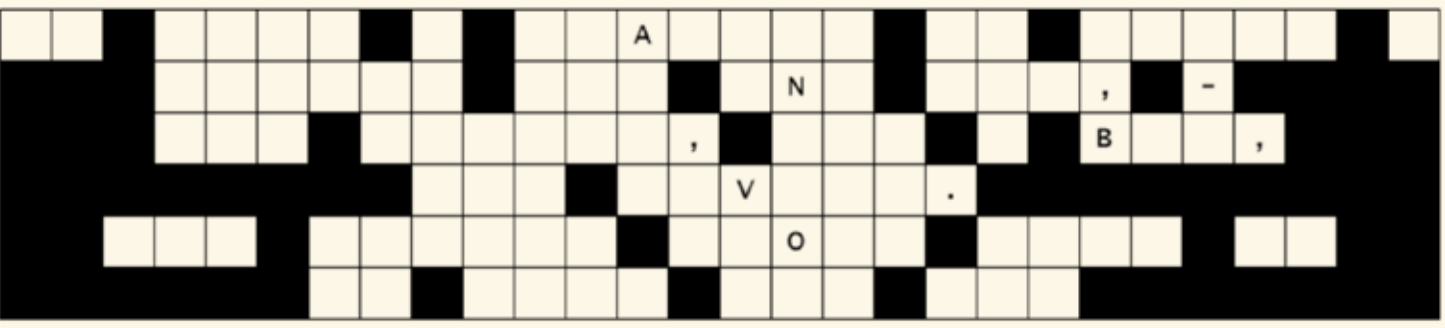
Secret Message Buzzle



A Famous Bee Poem

Try to rebuild the message.

The letters from each cell are below the puzzle. Try to rebuild the original poem by placing the letters in their correct cell. Bonus points if you know the poet's name!



E N
 L A E E T
 M N R F A B D R R O R R W
 H E O E C A N V E S A R E E Y I A I A
 C L K V E R O P N D I L I N D B E W T E K E S
 T O T O A E I E V E R Y R E A A E E F E E L L E D O A

Stumped?
 The answer
 key is on
page 15.



Club Meetings*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	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	May 9	Masters in May - Come and ask our expert beekeepers anything bee/beekeeping!	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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	May 8	Let Your Bees Go Naked: Foundationless Frames— Linda Tillman	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, 7pm			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			etowahrivereekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	May 25	Keith Fielder	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)	May 16	Queen Rearing	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm			henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* *(cont'd)*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake Country Beekeepers	Hancock County Library 8984 East Broad Street Sparta, GA 31087	3rd Thursday, 6:30pm	May 18	Every Beehive Tells a Story – Linda Tillman	lakecountrybees@gmail.com	Hancock
Lake Hartwell Beekeepers	Hart County BOE Agriscience Center 1951 Bowman Hwy, Hartwell, GA. 30643	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	May 4	Splitting Your Hives For Production – Steve Page	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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	May 16	Imperfect Comb And The Architectural Abilities Of Honey Bees – Dr. Michael Smith	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, 5:30pm	May 25	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Diane Stewart PLUS: Field Day/Hot Dog Lunch w/ guest speaker Karen Palmer. May 6, 9am-1pm. Free to OABA members; \$10 non-members. Call Terri Thomas for location: 912-682-0234	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
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	May 11	Introducing Bees To The Hive, Mite Control, Splitting Hives, & Next Steps For Early Summer – Club President & Vice President - James Morgan & Stan Ocon	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	3rd Monday, 7pm			tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	Clayton
Three County Beekeepers Club	Bleckley County Extension Office 165 Peacock Street Cochran, GA 31014	1st Tuesday, 7pm	May 2	Informational Q&A session with veteran beekeepers. Sharing of article about what determines a queen from a worker as they are in the developmental stage.	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 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



Spilling *The* Honey

JUNE 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are truly fortunate to have this association newsletter! It is well crafted with excellent general information and articles, and beautiful photography and graphics. Producing this each month is a huge commitment for these long-time volunteers. Please take a minute to thank **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich** for all their hard work in putting it together and **Linda Tillman** for her eagle-eyed editing before it lands in your inbox. You can write and send contributions for their use to gbanewsletters@gmail.com.

Our September conference is almost ready to open registration. We have an exciting lineup of new speakers including scientists with the latest honey bee information and Master Beekeepers who will share their thoughts on equipment organization, apiaries on golf courses, pollinator plants and more.

Our license plate revenue continues and some of the grants given are shown in this issue (*see page 4*). For an in-depth look at how to fill out the grant form and what types of grants get approved, please learn more about it at the breakout session in September. Also, please remember to ask your friends who are not beekeepers to buy one! 🍯

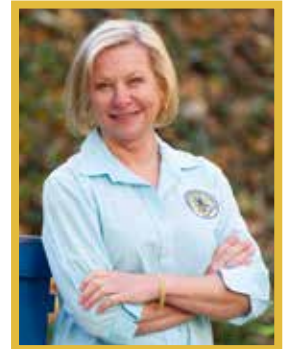
- *Gina*

Please mark your calendars:

We will be at the Ramsey Conference Center,
2535 Lanier Tech Dr, Gainesville, GA 30507:

September 21: UGA Master Beekeeper
Program/Welsh Honey Judge classes and testing

September 22- 23: GBA Fall Conference and
combined Honey & Artisan Show.



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Registration opens soon!



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Derrick Fowler

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia **Save The Honey Bee** License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.





2023 FALL CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Whether you're a new beekeeper or a seasoned professional, GBA's fall conference will educate, energize and **inspire** you!

Featuring Keynote Speakers:



Lewis Bartlett



Dewey M. Caron



Brock Harpur



Theresa Martin



Isaac Weinberg

Registration opens soon at:
gabeeking.com

FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Tri County Beekeepers

The purpose of the GBA *Save the Honey Bee* License Plate Fund is to help beekeepers around the state promote education about honey bees. The Tri County Beekeepers applied for and received funds to help us offer a very successful beginning beekeeper school this spring. More than 40 students benefited from classes



taught by several Master Beekeepers and instructors from the UGA Bee Lab. Attendees also received *First Lessons in Beekeeping* books, information folders, and food for the day. Money from the fund makes it possible for clubs like Tri County to turn a license plate into learning. 🐝



Lake Country Beekeepers Association

By Mary Lacksen

On behalf of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association, I want to thank the Georgia Beekeepers Association for the grant you awarded our bee club this spring. Four full bee suits and gloves are now available for protection for those individuals who want to visit inside a beehive with an experienced beekeeper.

Two beehives with bees are installed inside a fenced area (*shown right*) at the Sparta Hancock County Library. We are excited about utilizing these hives to engage the community and our bee club members to learn more about bees and beekeeping. The hives at this location will provide easy access to conduct hive demonstrations and bee-related events. In addition to our monthly bee meetings, which are held at the library, we have planned an Intro To Beekeeping course for the Hancock County 4H Students in July, and a World Honey Bee Day celebration in August. The Lake Country Beekeepers Association looks forward to offering many bee-related opportunities in Sparta, Georgia. 🐝



It's Time To Nominate Your 2023 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. This year's nomination period will open soon. Now is the time to consider who you might like to suggest as this year's recipient. Traditionally, past Beekeepers of the Year are not awarded the honor again.

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:

- **Dan Long, Chair** - Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association
- **Teri Meyer** - Forsyth Beekeepers Club
- **Linda Tillman** - Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association
- **Paul Berry** - Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers
- **Monica Shepard** - Rome Floyd 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. 🐝

GBA's 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.

Past Beekeepers of the Year

2022	Dan Long
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

CUTE AS CAN BEE!




Here is three-year-old **Ada McCormick** with her bees. She and her father **Frank** are first-year beekeepers in Lafayette, Georgia in the northwest corner of the state. Ada makes sure her bees have plenty of syrup to keep them going.

Honey Bee Removal Certification

Effective January 1, 2023, companies and individuals providing honey bee control and removal services from structures in the State of Georgia must be certified and licensed under rules amended in 2021 under the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act.

The University of Georgia Extension Department is offering a program for industry professionals to become certified through the Georgia Department of Agriculture for removing honey bees from structures. After attending this 8-hour training, individuals must pass a written exam, sign a sworn affidavit describing at least three bee removal jobs previously performed, and pay an operator certification fee.

The training workshop will take place on **June 8 from 8 am to 5 pm**. The cost is \$15. **See the agenda here.** Lunch, drinks and snacks are provided. The location is the Habersham Extension Agriculture Service Center (555 Monroe St, Suite 50, Box 13 Clarkesville, GA 30523). **Get Directions.**

For more information, see the **event website**. This **fact sheet** shows the compliance rules for honey bee removal in Georgia. Here you can also see the **Honey Bee Control & Removal Manual**. 

To register, call 706 754-2318 or email uge1137@uga.edu. You can also contact Steven Patrick at stevep@uga.edu.

June 8, 2023 Honey Bee Removal Training Agenda

Time	Location	Topic	Instructor
8:00	Student Learning Center Room 105	Introduction	Dr. Dan Suter, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, Griffin, Georgia
8:05		Honey Bee Biology (via Zoom)	Dr. Keith Delaplane, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
9:05		Relevant State and Federal Laws, Safety Precautions	Ms. Ali Ikner and Mr. Tim Taylor, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Atlanta, Georgia
10:15		Break	
10:30		Non-Honey Bee Pollinators	Ms. Rebecca Griffin, Center for Urban Agriculture, University of Georgia, Blairsville, Georgia; Coordinator, Great Georgia Pollinator Census
11:30		Types of Honey Bee Removals and Basic Removal Techniques	Karen Palmer, <i>Honey Please</i> , LLC, Swainsboro, Georgia
12:30		Lunch	
1:30		Trap-Out Techniques and Negative Consequences of Leaving Honey, Pollen and Brood in a Structure	Karen Palmer
2:30		Eradication versus Relocation Including Common Insecticides and Pesticides Applied to Honey Bees	Bobby Chaisson, Operations Director, <i>Georgia Bee Removal</i> , Lula, Georgia
3:30		Break	
3:45		Cut-Out Removal Techniques Including Basic Construction Knowledge, Recommended Tools, Finding and Caging the Queen, Preventing Future Infestations, Saving Comb and Hiving Bees	Bobby Chaisson



THE CAMERA

AS A HIVE TOOL

By Linda Tillman



Author's Note: For this article, I interviewed five beekeepers: George Andl, Kathy Bourn, Deb DeWitt, Holli Kirscher, and Dave Marshall, each of whom had a unique contribution to this article. Thanks to all of you for sharing with me.

Above: In her beekeeping, Holli Kircher uses her camera for a variety of both practical and artistic purposes. (Photos courtesy of Holli Kircher.)

When I first started beekeeping, like every new beekeeper, I wanted to see the queen in my hive. I didn't... *not for three years*. But in the process, I discovered the power of the camera as a hive tool. In my early inspections, I took photos of every single frame front and back. Then, sitting in front of my computer, miracle of miracles, I often found the queen in one of my photos!

Deb DeWitt, Vice President of Tara Beekeepers, says, "A phone camera is an essential tool for any beekeeper's kit. I use my iPhone regularly when inspecting hives. It helps me see what is going on with the bees; it helps my students and mentees see things they might not otherwise notice; and it's a handy diagnostic and reference tool."

An essential way that a photo helps is **to keep track of your hives**. Holli Kircher, a Lake Hartwell beekeeper, says, "All my hives have a letter or number on them. I will take a photo of the hive letter/number first, so I know that the subsequent photos belong to that particular hive."

George Andl, a Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA) member, relies on the time/date stamp that a photo can provide.

His beekeeping inspections and his bee journal entries may be several days apart. He says, "A photo that captures the date/time of the task can jog my memory."

I start my own inspections by taking a photo of each hive front and then a photo of what it looks like around the inner cover. Deb often does slow motion videos of the front of her hives as she starts an inspection. "I can see how much pollen they are bringing in as well as what kinds of pollen or even resin they carry in their corbiculae." I love Deb's idea of the slo-mo video. Sometimes bees fly in so quickly, I can't be sure if I did or didn't see pollen on their legs.

Another way to use your camera is **to see specifics inside your hive**. When I look at a frame of bees, there are lots and lots of moving parts... that is to say *bees*. It's very hard to see under the groups of bees and to see the contents of the comb. A photo can show you what you can't see in the moment. Kathy Bourn, of Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, says, "Still photography stops the motion so you can really see the details."

Looking at a photo on the computer screen allows me to zoom in

Continued on following page

THE CAMERA AS A HIVE TOOL (CONTINUED)

(Photo: Peter Helfrich)



Above: Still photography eliminates the motion of the bees and can allow the beekeeper to better observe things like eggs, larvae, the presence of varroa, or potential disease conditions.

and see tiny eggs, tiny c-shaped larvae, and to see the graduation of size in the larvae in different cells. I've heard many beekeepers on hive inspections lament that they have forgotten their reading glasses. But even with reading glasses, it's hard to stop the action to see what you'd like to see. The bees are in constant motion but a camera stops them in their tracks.

Holli wrote, "I use my camera frequently to take pics of brood frames, so that I can zoom in to see within the cells better. Many times, especially on light foundation, I cannot see eggs with my naked eye. However, I can easily see them by snapping a quick photo and zooming in. This shortens my inspection time and keeps me from second guessing myself on what I 'saw'."

The camera can also help with **identifying problems in the hive**. I've seen photos that exposed a varroa mite on a larvae and mites on bee bodies. I've seen photos of the small hive beetles and their damage in my hive. I've looked at photos to see the differences between small hive beetle larvae and the larvae of the wax moth.

Deb takes shots of bee brood that she thinks may be diseased. "I can text these images to beekeeper colleagues or even to UGA for a second opinion or discussion," she added.

Dave Marshall who, as MABA's "Swarm Commander" staffs the club's swarm hotline, finds **photos essential to his role in assigning members to collect swarms**. "The saying 'a picture is worth a thousand words' definitely applies when dealing with a swarm, because time really is of the essence. I am able to work very quickly when I receive a picture of a swarm via text message, which I can immediately forward to MABA members who can very quickly determine if they are capable of capturing the swarm or not. When the camera is used properly, photos transfer crucial information which is time sensitive leading to an increased



Above: Example of swarm photos received by Dave Marshall, who staffs MABA's honey bee swarm hotline. Photos like these are essential to helping him assess situations and dispatch beekeepers to capture swarms.

number of successful swarm captures in our community."

A very important **use of the camera is for education**. Kathy, who spent her career as a videographer, lent her talents to GBA and filmed the artisan show from entries to judging. Since the artisan judging is behind the scenes, Kathy, through her video, opened up the process for all of us to see. We all learned a lot from her video. **You can watch it here.**

Kathy also filmed a video with Bobby Chaisson and Julia Mahood on how to do a hive inspection. Under the name Bee Poop Productions, Kathy "made a video that took new MABA beekeepers through a beehive. With editing, this video presented smoker information, how to open and go through a hive, and what you see in a hive – all in 30 minutes." **You can watch that video here.**

George keeps a blog on his beekeeping. Most of his beekeeping adventures are documented there. **If you go to this link**, you'll see photos of his recent swarm catching with a MABA swarm trap. George points out that no blog post is complete without a photo and he has taken many educational and beautiful shots. He also uses the screenshot ability of his computer (a hidden form of camera!) to find weather data to support his information on his posts.

Deb really appreciates the camera for its educational value. She says, "The ability to take closeup stills or video when teaching is invaluable, as sometimes it's easier to snap a shot of something the mentee can't see, like an egg, and then show it to them. Recently, at a school, a baby bee was emerging from a cell. I shot video for a student who could not enter the bee yard, so she was able to see this."

Continued on following page

THE CAMERA AS A HIVE TOOL (CONTINUED)



(Photo: George Andl)

Above: George Andl uses camera photos to illustrate educational blog posts that document his experiences with beekeeping, like the arrival of this swarm at a bait box.

I used the photos I take in my own hives to illustrate talks I give to bee clubs. During COVID, I videoed all of my hive inspections in 2020 and 2021 and showed them on Zoom to people who wanted



Above: An adult bee emerging from beneath its wax capping. (Photo: Holli Kircher)

to learn but couldn't go in person to the beehive because of the pandemic. I continue to video inspections, swarm captures, beekeeping tips, and cooking with honey **on my YouTube channel**.

Kathy really understands the value of the photo as a learning tool. She says, "Just reading words doesn't really give the audience, pardon the pun, the full picture. The

camera allows me to show the steps in a beekeeping process and not just the finished product."

The camera also serves a social function. Having photos is a way to share your beekeeping experience with others. George wrote, "I have to admit that some of the motivation to take photos is social – sharing with non-beekeeper friends and keeping up the excitement in the MABA Swarm Trap Cluster Group." The time stamp on George's camera allowed him to report to friends exactly how many minutes it took a swarm to move into his MABA swarm trap.

The camera is a conveyor of visual art. The photography



Above: The camera is also an artistic tool. The photography category of GBA's Artisan Show always receives numerous competitive entries. (Photo: Deb Dewitt) Inset: An award-winning black-and-white photograph by Holli Kircher.

category always has a lot of entries at GBA artisan show and at local clubs. Holli says, "A bonus to taking photos during inspections, is that the more photos you take, the more chances you have of getting a potentially award-winning photograph to enter into the honey shows! You may have a picture of something that no one else has been able to experience on that level. By sharing your photos with others, you are not only educating them, but you are enabling them to join in on that moment in time, to see what otherwise would not have been seen."

Join the many beekeepers who are using a camera to help enhance their beekeeping experience. *It's an invaluable hive tool.* 📷

A few helpful hints as you consider using your camera more in your work with bees:

- **A tripod helps** and is inexpensive. Trying to hold a frame and manage your iPhone camera at the same time is awkward, while a tripod makes it much easier to shoot a picture. But don't let the tripod holder press the buttons on both sides of your phone – your phone will call 911. *Don't ask me how I know!*
- Holli noted, "My phone and camera are both usually sticky and covered with propolis and honey. One suggestion I would offer, particularly if using your phone, is to **have a dedicated case that can get dirty**."
- Apparently these days, you can turn on the iPhone's Say Cheese shortcut (i.e., say "**Hey, Siri, Say Cheese**") and your phone camera will take a picture then and there! Hands free. 📷

BEEKEEPING BOOTHS AT FAIRS AND FESTIVALS DRAW A CROWD

By **Joe Conti**, *President of the Oglethorpe County Bee Club*

On May 13th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club hosted a booth at the annual Marigold Festival In Winterville, Georgia. We have participated in this festival every year for approximately the last 10 years, and it has always been one of our favorite activities.

Fairs and festivals are a unique way to accomplish various goals for your club and community. The club gets to showcase its wares, whether in the form of honey, wax, or the variety of other products we get from our bees. Income from the sales of these products is, of course, always welcomed. For our club, it was agreed beforehand that 10% of our sales would go back to the club treasury; this amounted to a \$250 kickback!

In terms of community benefits, festival visitors are able to: buy quality honey (the real deal, no fake honey here!); obtain recognition of the club as a local resource; become educated about all things bees with their many questions. In our booth, we provided a variety of handout materials produced by the National Honey Board regarding recipes and facts. We also displayed a banner promoting the GBA honey bee license plate.

The License Plate Fund helped us purchase the five-frame observation hive on display and which was probably the biggest

attraction to our booth. We had a “Find the Queen” contest, with honey bee stickers given out to those people able to find her (she did like to hide at the bottom of the frame a lot).

The looks on the kids’ faces when they saw the live bees are priceless. We spoke to dozens of people about bees and even had a signup sheet for those interested in joining our club. What a way to recruit new beekeepers! Various patrons who attended the festival told us our booth was the most popular, due in part to our delicious honey (that they were able to taste test before buying) and our observation hive. We were constantly busy the entire day.

Consider renting a booth at your next community event. It is a great time to talk bees for hours with your members who participate and an opportunity to connect with people in the community. You may even see old friends you haven’t seen for a while and rekindle those friendships. For me, it was especially fun because many of my former high school students – now with children of their own, and one with a grandchild even – stopped by to see me (well, seeing that grandchild was a tough one for me to acknowledge, *haha!*). 🐝



Dan Long, President, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Assoc. (and OCBC member); Joe Conti and Cory Momany, President and Vice President, Oglethorpe County Bee Club. Five-frame observation hive purchased with the help of GBA license plate funds.

TOUR OF HIVES: **Sue Barnes**

By Kathy Bourn

To say Sue Barnes loves caring for animals is like saying bees love nectar. When you come to Whiskey Springs Plantation, Sue's home with her husband Steven just outside Lyons, Georgia, you might think you're on a cattle farm because of the two cow statues in front of the house. But then you meet the nine rescued dogs, five cats and two Sulcata African Land Tortoises. And that is before you even get to the million or so of Sue's honey bees.

Sue and Steven own and operate the Vidalia Peanut Company by day, but put a lot of their energy into caring for their home and animals. After building their house themselves, they each found their areas of interest. At some point honey bees were mentioned and Steven suggested Sue give that a try. In 2017, she went to her first bee meeting with the Altamaha Beekeepers Association. At that meeting, she paid five dollars for a raffle ticket and won a nuc. Her beekeeping education needed a quick start after that, but she took on the challenge.

Sue's bee operation quickly grew. Most of her 20 to 30 hives are in her home bee yard, but she has 10 colonies pollinating



blueberries close by. She also has five hives at a friend's place and those bees produce a honey that I swear tastes like chocolate. She

Continued on following page





Above: Sue's bees are Italians and mutts and she gets most of her queens locally in Baxley, Georgia. A Quonset hut and several trailers on the property are put to use for supply storage, moving bees, and as a honey house. This hive is home to Thelma, one of Sue's breeder queens is a hygienic "mite mauler." Above right: Most of Sue's 20 to 30 hives are in her home bee yard, but she has 10 colonies pollinating blueberries close by. A huge tarp holds down weeds and helps with SHB.

Continued from previous page

acquired extra equipment from a local beekeeper who retired and Sue then built up her stock enough to now sell nucs each year.

Her bees are Italians and mutts and she gets most of her queens locally in Baxley, Georgia. She has also picked up a hygienic queen from Howard Baldwin called a "mite mauler." She met him at the last GBA conference. The queen, named Thelma, is now one of her breeder queens. Her treatment regimen is with oxalic vapor and Apivar. Sue plants a garden and buckwheat for her bees, but most of the forage comes from cotton, soybeans and the flowering trees in Emanuel County.

Steven's scavenging ability proves useful for Sue's beekeeping. She uses a huge thick tarp they acquired to set her hives on. It eliminates weeds and she thinks it helps reduce small hive beetles. There is also a Quonset hut and several trailers on the property that are put to use for supply storage, moving bees, and as a honey house. She cleverly uses a commercial food warmer to liquefy her crystalized honey. At one point, she picked up a 36-frame extractor, but sold it to get a more manageable four-frame electric one. Come honey harvesting time, her daughter and son-in-law will show up to help, but Steven stays clear of the bees.

Sue is quick to mention the beekeepers who have helped her along the way like Bobby Colson, Karen Palmer, and Jim Rich. That is why she continues to help others by being president of the Altamaha Beekeepers Association and providing a Beekeeping 101 course. Sue is also a member of the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers Association in Statesboro.

Caring for bees and for other beekeepers has become a source of joy for Sue Barnes. She looks forward to cracking open a box and seeing her girls looking up at her. She can stand in her bee yard and tell you what each colony is like without even looking in the hive. She enjoys caring for all her animals, including the flying ones. 🐝

If you know someone who has a beekeeping setup that would be good to feature in our *Tour of Hives*, please let us know. Send your suggestions to: **Kathy Bourn** at gbanewsletters@gmail.com

🌿 Plants for Bees: Peggy Martin Rose 🌿

By *Kathy Bourn*

The Peggy Martin Rose is a beautiful, pink climbing rose that survived the devastation of Hurricane Katrina to become a horticultural phoenix. In 2005, a Louisiana gardener named Peggy Martin lived on family property in Plaquemines Parish where she grew over 400 different cultivars of roses. The hurricane killed her parents, leveled her home, and destroyed all her roses... or so she thought. Peggy and her husband returned to their property months later and discovered that one rose still survived despite being submerged beneath 20 feet of salt water for nearly two weeks. It was an unnamed climbing rose that Peggy had received years earlier as a pass-along cutting and planted by her garden shed.

Several growers worked from previous cuttings to make available the rose they named Peggy Martin (aka the Hurricane Katrina Rose). My mother heard that the sale of the rose would help fund garden restoration on the Gulf Coast and she planted one in my garden. Today it is about 17-years old and lives on the garden fence and has a 20-foot spread. I've never done anything to care for it, but it rewards me and the pollinators with abundant roses each year. Often, it even re-blooms in the fall.

You can call this rose a true southern belle. She (I like calling her she) can tolerate both heat and humidity, yet she can survive in below-zero temperatures. She is hardy in zones 4-9. Peggy Martin is thornless, except for tiny thorns on the leaves but none on the stems. She likes full sun and well-drained soil, but she's not picky. She is also disease and pest resistant. The only bugs that seem to take notice of her are pollinators, everything from hummingbirds to butterflies to bees.

The density of flowers is a bonus for pollinators since they don't have to travel far to fill up. It's a kind of one-stop shopping for them. Bees also like that the blooms are small and the open rose shape exposes the pollen.

She is a rambler, but she can be trained along walls or up trellises. The flowers are not considered cutting roses but the clusters of blooms are spectacular. You can expect a growth rate of 6-15 feet per year. A single flower has a light fragrance, but because of the volume of blooms, you can catch the smell from a distance.

For more on the back story of the Peggy Martin Rose, **check out this article in *Southern Living***. If you ever need a symbol of resilience in your life, plant a Peggy Martin Rose. 🍷



Photo Credit: Rose Notes

Peggy Martin

The Beekeeper of Aleppo

Christy Lefteri

Book review by **David Hinton**

The power of great works of literature is the ability to put you in the hearts and minds of its characters and to see their world as if it is yours.

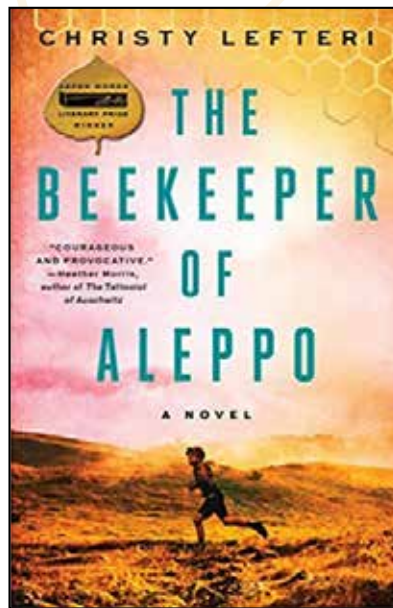
The Beekeeper of Aleppo has this power. Reading it and understanding its message may have great impact on you.

The book's author, Christy Lefteri, is the child of Cypriot refugees. Her father had been a commanding officer in the 1974 war in Cyprus. She watched her father suffer over the years from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She was moved to volunteer at a UNICEF-supported family refugee center in Athens, Greece during the worst years of the Syrian civil war. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* was born out of her experiences and the stories she heard, in particular the story of Dr. Ryad Alsous, a beekeeping refugee from Syria who made it to northern England.

The book is about Mustapha, a third-generation beekeeper and proprietor of a commercial apiary in Aleppo with over 500 hives. Mustapha's mother died in childbirth when he was very young, and he was raised by his beekeeping grandfather and father. With no women left in his family, Mustapha watched with fascination the nurturing matriarchal society of the bees.

Mustapha brings his cousin Nuri into the family beekeeping operation. Nuri, the book's narrator, lives a peaceful and loving life with his artist/painter wife Afra, and their seven-year-old son Sami. Nuri is every bit as much in love with their bees as Mustapha. Their peaceful and idyllic life is shattered by the Syrian civil war. Sensing the impending danger, Mustapha sends his wife and daughter on to England and safety. Shattered by the wanton violence of vandals setting the 500 colonies on fire in his apiary, Mustapha flees Syria and eventually is able to join his family in England.

The lives of Nuri and Afra are shattered when their son Sami is killed by a random bomb explosion while playing in the family's backyard garden. When a group of fighters gives Nuri one day to decide whether to join them or die, Nuri convinces Afra that it is time to leave and join Mustapha in England.



They begin the harrowing refugee trek through Turkey and Greece, a frightening experience complete with drownings at sea, murders and rapes. Their ordeal comprises the bulk of the book.

Bees are mentioned throughout the book for what they represent and their symbolic importance. Recalling their lives with the bees gives both Nuri and Mustapha the hope they need to persevere. "Where there are bees there are flowers and where there are flowers there is new life and hope" are the encouraging words Mustapha writes to Nuri. In several instances throughout the book, the orderly harmonious life of the beehive where the bees work for the common good of the hive is contrasted with the violence and destructive human society.

The book resonated with me for personal reasons. For all of my life, from my earliest childhood memories to the day my father passed, I watched my father suffer from PTSD. He had been in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II and, like most veterans, he never talked about his experiences.

But my father's experience with PTSD was greatly different from those of the characters in *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*. My father returned to a nation triumphant in war. His home, his family, and his country were intact. For Nuri, Afra, and Mustapha, their families, their homes, and even their country were lost. They were forced to flee to countries they had never visited without knowing the language there. How can we possibly understand, and empathize with, the suffering they endured?

The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a sad tale of suffering and warfare. 🐝

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 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.**



Share Your Club’s Upcoming Meeting Plans With Us!

We want to know (and share) what events and activities your local club has planned.

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. Thank you! 🍯

Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	president@gabeekeeping.com	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	secretary@gabeekeeping.com	
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	treasurer@gabeekeeping.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	blueskyhoney@live.com	706-540-4166
Cindy Hodges	Metro Atlanta	HodgesHoney@gmail.com	770-861-2112
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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Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	webmaster@gabeekeeping.com	478-396-7228
Linda Tillman	Past President	pastpresident@gabeekeeping.com	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	jbee@uga.edu	706-247-2575

Spelling Bee Buzzle

Entomology

Entomology is the study of insects, which includes our own honey bees. How many words of three letters or more can you make with the letters in entomology?

Hint: There are **89 possible answers**. The answers are all acceptable Scrabble words - *which means that we’re not sure they all have legit definitions!*

Stumped?
The answer
key is on
page 18.



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

Maggie Douglas with the Altamaha Beekeepers Association visited the head start program at the Jeff Davis County Schools to educate three and four-year-olds about honey bees. The children learned about flowers that honey bees like, and why flowers like honey bees to visit them. They also learned all about how bees communicate and got to practice their own waggle dance. 🐝



Coweta Beekeepers Association

May was a busy month for the Coweta Beekeepers Association. On May 6th, the annual picnic was held at Carl Miller Park in Newnan. Special thanks to member **Nick Shinn** for manning the grill and providing delicious burgers and hot dogs for all. At the monthly meeting on May 8th, guest speaker **Linda Tillman** made a presentation on foundationless frames and club member **Phillip Long** offered a mentoring session on beekeeping tools. Finally, two workshops were hosted on May 20th and 21st at the club apiary in Luthersville and the home of Board Secretary **Pam Rentz**. Board Member **Steve Page** led students through hive inspections, queen rearing, and making splits as we near the end of the nectar flow in the Piedmont region. 🐝



Beekeepers of Gilmer County

The Beekeepers of Gilmer County have had a very busy spring. Several club members volunteered to talk about the importance of honey bees to the STEM class at Gilmer Elementary School. Over 123 students and staff heard about the life cycle of the bees, the benefits of the products bees work so hard to produce and their benefits to humans.

Earth Day was held at the fairgrounds where the public was educated on honey bee hive activities, how important the queen is and the benefits that the workers provide.

The two-day Apple Blossom Festival was held next to Rt 515 on a closed street. Gilmer County Beekeepers informed attendees about crystallization of honey and how to remedy that occurrence and to *not* throw out the honey if it crystallizes. Festival goers also had an opportunity to taste of our local honey, including sourwood. **Robert Gifford** did an excellent presentation on his new design of a bottom board that will keep out mice, beetles and European hornets. 🐝



Above: Club members talk about honey bees with STEM students at Gilmer Elementary School. Above Right: Russell Evans, president of the BKofGC, and Michael Johnson at the Apple Blossom Festival in Ellijay during May.

Forsyth Beekeepers Club

Saturday, May 20, 2023, Forsyth Beekeepers Club held its 14th Annual Queen Rearing Class. The students learned in-depth honey bee reproductive biology along with apiary setup using the Doolittle Method of Queen Rearing. Each student grafted four larvae into JZBZ cups. The cells will be placed in a nurse hive for 10 days then the students will be able to pick them up.



Bill Dunn provided the stock and all materials for our queen grafting. **Butch and Ann Shelton** along with being lecturers provided food and refreshments. **Rodney Garner** was also a lecturer and provided the class with an excellent microscope to check their larvae. **Ray Supple** was our photographer/videographer for the class. 🐝

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Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, May 16, at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program was presented by **Jesse Robinson** who is working with **Bob Binnie**. Jesse's expertise is queen rearing and he discussed the procedures used at Blue Ridge Honey Co. His PowerPoint and talk were very interesting and informative. Join us on June 20, for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 pm, and the regular meeting which begins at 7 pm. We will not be having a formal meeting but will be enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook at hogba.org. 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Students at Hart County High School learned firsthand how a swarm can take advantage of your empty hives. The school manages beehives with the help of Lake Hartwell Beekeepers. Agriculture science teacher, **Anna Smith**, said they had a hive die last winter and they cleaned out the hive but left the woodware in place. Students were thrilled to see a swarm take up residency in the hive.



LHBA also heard from **Steve Page** during our May meeting about the 10% of beekeeping that they don't teach you at the bee schools.

The Hart County Botanical Garden hosted 100 second graders from North Hart Elementary School. **Kathy Bourn** with LHBA was there to tell them everything you can tell about honey bees in 10-minute sessions. 🍯

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, May 15th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club was treated to a presentation by **Olivia Menard** (right) on Some Notable Bee Scientists throughout history and how they contributed to the things we know and use today in beekeeping. Included was a passage through time on how people first kept bees. But most fascinating was how the famous Swiss scientist Francois Huber was able to contribute so much to the world of beekeeping, with the help of his wife and assistants, despite being blind! 🍯



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



At MABA's May meeting, guest lecturer **Dr. Michael Smith** (above, with hexagon hands), an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Auburn University, spoke on the topic of "Imperfect Comb And The Architectural Abilities Of Honey Bees." Smith's entertaining and informative talk was a fascinating deep dive into how honey bees build comb, the efficiency of different shapes in nature and how honey bees brilliantly merge combs of differing sizes to suit their purposes.

On June 20th, MABA will welcome UGA's **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** and hear about the latest science taking place at the Honey Bee Laboratory. 🍯

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

Another lucky pollinator plant raffle winner at the May meeting of the SOWEGA Beekeepers. Bees are going to enjoy the pollen and nectar from this mature Vitex Tree (also known as a Chaste Tree). Thank you to our club sponsor, **Lawn Barber Nursery** for providing the pollinator plants for our raffle. We raffle off a plant at each meeting so come and see what the buzz is all about! 🍯



Club News

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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

Varroa Field Day: June 24

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm, **Tri County Beekeepers** and **Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association** will present Varroa Field Day.



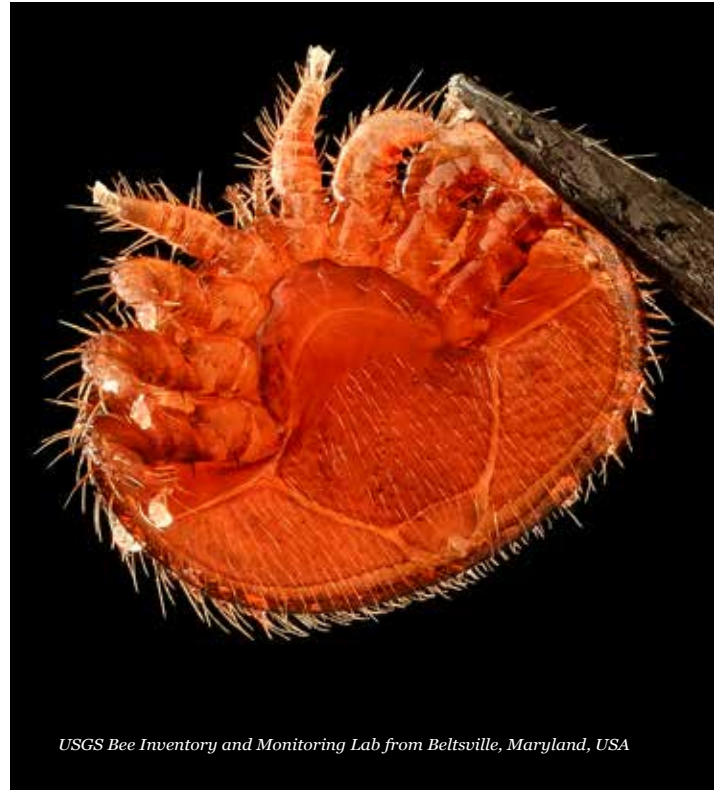
Come learn about the parasite, *Varroa destructor* and its effects on the health of our honey bees. We will have expert presentations on the history, physiology and dangers associated with varroa as well as methods to monitor and control it.

The morning session will be indoors with a break for a box lunch provided to all attendees. After lunch, we will have outdoor, hands-on training on

monitoring and treatment for varroa including the alcohol wash method of mite counting and proper use of various approved treatments. Participants will also be provided with the *Varroa Management Guide* from the Honey Bee Health Coalition. The event's keynote speaker is **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** (shown inset) of the University of Georgia Bee Lab.

Varroa Field Day will be held at the **Athens-Clarke County Cooperative Extension Office**, 275 Cleveland Road, Bogart, Georgia 30622. The cost of \$20 includes lunch.

Click here to register.



USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab from Beltsville, Maryland, USA

Spelling Bee Buzzle

Answer Key

lot	loot	mento	mongee
loo	loon	meltly	moflen
log	loom	melon	metlen
ley	long	loony	melony
let	long	loony	looney
leg	logy	loony	looment
gym	logon	lento	lomonny
goy	loge	lento	gooney
got	lent	lento	gionny
gog	lento	lento	gentoo
goy	lento	lento	genty
gey	lento	lento	genty
get	lento	lento	genty
gen	lento	lento	genty
gem	lento	lento	genty
gel	lento	lento	genty
con	lento	lento	genty
eng	lento	lento	genty
emo	lento	lento	genty
elm	lento	lento	genty
ego	lento	lento	genty

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 Meetings*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	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	Jun. 13	Annual Club Picnic, June 13, 6:15 - 8 pm (location: Little Mulberry Park, 3855 Fence Rd. Auburn, GA) Click here for details.	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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	Jun. 12	Issues with Old Comb & Toxic Interactions in our Colonies – Bob Binnie	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, 7pm			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			etowahrivereekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Jun. 22	Keith Fielder	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)	Jun. 20	Annual club cook-out	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Jun. 13	Extracting Your Honey	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* (cont'd)

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake 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, 6:30pm			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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Jun. 20	Dr. Lewis Bartlett	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, 5:30pm	Jun. 29	Keith Fielder	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
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	Jun. 8	Turning Your Beekeeping Hobby Into A Beekeeping Business – John and Randy Hickman / Owners & Operators of Hickman Honey, Sycamore, Ga.	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	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. 12	Harvesting Honey & Creamed Honey – Dave & Regina Hollomon	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



Spilling *The* Honey

JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Independence Day to all! We are having a hot summer right now, and the honey flow in Georgia seems to have been a short one this year. Jennifer Berry, of the University of Georgia Bee Lab, suggests that we check our colonies for honey stores and feed if needed.

Please enjoy this newsletter. There is always great information here, but with this issue, we begin to preview our upcoming fall conference. Club presidents should take note of Linda Tillman's profile of Eric Malcolm, Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) Sentinel Program co-coordinator, from whom we will hear during the conference's Presidents' Breakfast. You can also read an interview with Theresa Martin, one of our keynote speakers.

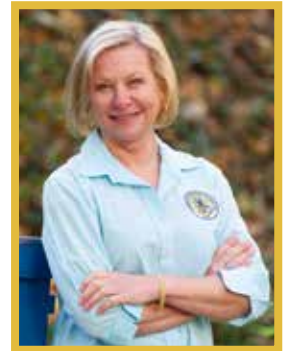
GBA's fall conference will again be in Gainesville, GA, and **registration is now open**. Please read all the information carefully. For those who are attending the Georgia Master Beekeeping Program (formally the Young Harris Bee Institute), you are required to register for the GBA conference *and* check the section for the certification level. The three-day conference schedule will look like this:

- **Thursday, September 21:** Georgia Master Beekeeping Program classes, testing, GBA vendor set up, and GBA Board meeting
- **Friday, September 22:** GBA conference, Georgia Master Beekeeping Certified Testing, Honey Show and Awards, and Dinner
- **Saturday, September 23:** Presidents' breakfast, GBA Business Meeting, conference, and elections

We are looking forward to being together!

Finally, in each issue of this newsletter, please read the GBA License Plate Grant recipient profiles (**see page 3**) to get great ideas about how your club can better educate other beekeepers and the public about honey bees. Be creative and think about what you can accomplish with some of the proceeds. *We have the funding available to help you get it done!* 🍯

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Register Now!



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Derrick Fowler

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia **Save The Honey Bee** License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.



FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

East Georgia State College

By *Paul Cerpovicz, Professor of Chemistry - East Georgia State College*

The East Georgia State College beekeeping program has hosted and participated in many events in the past year. We have held honey-extracting parties on campus where anyone from the community could help extract the campus honey. We have also been part of large community events in Emanuel and surrounding counties as well as on the Swansboro campus.



And we've visited local schools. License plate funds were used to purchase educational pollinator-themed books for all ages and we have given them out free of charge to the community. These have been really appreciated by kids, parents, and others. 🐝



EGSC faculty members Candace Lynn, John Cadle, and Paul Cerpovicz visited Twin City Elementary School in Twin City, GA in March. They read pollinator-themed books to eight classes for a total of about 100-120 students. Afterward, 11 pollinator-themed books purchased with the help of the LPPC funding were donated to the school's media center.



Above (L to R): The Greenfest Sustainability event held in Statesboro, Georgia in February. The annual Old Farm Days event was held at Anderson General Store in Statesboro in November nearly 300 people in attendance. The annual Pine Tree Festival event held in Swainsboro, Ga in May.

How Georgia is Supporting the **2023 FARM BILL**

By Virginia Webb

From its inception 103 years ago, the major purpose of the Georgia Beekeeping Association was to designate a legislative committee which could lobby our state legislators for assistance with beekeeping issues, most notably American foulbrood. This began an important dialogue between the GBA and our state and federal elected officials.

Steven Patrick, my local Habersham County extension agent, recommended that Senator Warnock's field team visit my beekeeping operation in early May. Afterward we held a follow-up Zoom call – including additional beekeepers and industry representatives – with the Senator's leading agriculture legislative aide. I accepted an invitation to join the American Beekeeping Federation's (ABF) legislative efforts in Washington, DC on Tuesday, June 20. I participated in a full day of meetings with multiple congressional agricultural staff to discuss issues facing the beekeeping industry and the upcoming Farm Bill request for apiculture. The 2023 Farm Bill is an omnibus, multiyear (five) law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. Nearly 80% of the bill is appropriated for food nutrition (SNAP) and around eight percent is allotted for farm commodities.

Before this important endeavor, I wanted to be updated with facts regarding our industry, major crop pollination and farm gate values, the number of hives and beekeepers in the state, queen and package sales, and honey production. Several individuals helped in providing fact-driven data to ensure I would be speaking accurately on these subjects.

In addition to meeting with the ABF legislative team on the trip, I communicated with the Georgia Farm Bureau Honeybee Advisory Committee chairman, Keith Fielder (I am also a member of this committee) to review several key GFB Policy issues to cover. I also spoke with Dr. Keith Delaplane at UGA.

Our beekeeping team in Washington, DC included Fran Boyd, a Washington lobbyist who has represented the beekeeping industry for over 30 years. ABF president Dan Winter and Jay Miller were there to speak for our industry. Major issues we brought to legislators included:

1. 2023 Farm Bill

A. Honey Integrity Issues – prominently identifying and labeling of “manufactured or synthetic” honey, clear understanding of the country of origin labeling requirements, and issuing a Standard of Identity for Honey.



B. USDA-ARS Honeybee Research Lab funding increase of \$9 million – This would represent a 30% increase in the ARS bee labs in Beltsville, MD, Baton Rouge, LA, Tucson, AZ and UC Davis, CA.

C. Continued funding of the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for U.S. beekeepers – This is the only disaster program available to the beekeeping industry, mainly used for extreme disasters to apiaries, especially weather-related and CCD losses.

2. Review of recent Dept. of Labor (DOL) Adverse Wage Rate Rule change beginning this year – A complex and controversial change in the wage scale of H-2A, temporary agricultural workers. This new ruling has been opposed by almost all major agricultural industry organizations, including beekeeping. There has been bipartisan legislation action led by Senator Ossoff to direct the DOL to reverse this decision and it is gaining bipartisan support.

3. Discussed opening the U.S. and Canadian border for shipments of U.S. packages and queens – Although there is no legislative issue at this time, negotiations with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (the agency that placed restrictions on the importation of honey bees) are moving forward, congressional representatives were made aware of the issues facing our queen and package bee producers.

Meetings began early on Tuesday morning and our team visited the following Senate and Senate Agriculture Committee meetings:

- Office of Senator Kevin Cramer (ND)
- Office of Senator John Ossoff (GA)
- Office of Amy Klobuchar (MN)
- Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Office of Senator Raphael Warnock (GA)
- Office of Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
- Office of Senator John Thune (SC)
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

At each meeting, we spoke with legislative aides and agriculture legislative representatives for the senators. Each meeting lasted between 20-30 minutes.

After meeting with these representatives, I have followed up with emails to the Senators asking for updates on the issues we have brought to their attention. I will keep GBA President, Gina Gallucci, updated on future communications received. 🍯

UGA Bee Lab


POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANT SALE

By *Jennifer Berry*

Poring over seed catalogs and pollinator mixes can be confusing, which is why the UGA Bee Lab created a pollinator garden “flat.” Consisting of 21 plants, these flats are designed to help folks get started with gardening for pollinators. We carefully picked flowering plants that attract many different pollinators and are suitable for Georgia’s Piedmont region. We also included a sample garden layout map along with information about each plant and the pollinators they may bring to yards and gardens.

This year the bee lab sold over 50 Pollinator Garden Flats! In addition, the UGA Golf Course superintendent, Scott Griffith, purchased 21 flats and has planted them in areas around the

course to bring awareness about protecting pollinators. It has been a wonderful collaboration between the UGA Golf Course and the Bee Lab. Sunshine Nursery in Winterville, also purchased a number of plants to sell in the fall.

Folks from the UGA Bee Lab will be at the GBA Fall Conference selling individual pollinator perennials that can be planted in the fall for blooms next year. All proceeds from the sale of our pollinator plants and gardens go to support bee research. If you are interested in our garden flats, we will be selling them next year on Earth Day. For more information about our sale and the UGA Bee Lab, please visit www.ent.uga.edu/bees 





2023 FALL CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Whether you're a new beekeeper or a seasoned professional, GBA's fall conference will educate, energize and **inspire** you!

Featuring Keynote Speakers:



Lewis Bartlett



Dewey M. Caron



Brock Harpur



Theresa Martin



Isaac Weinberg



Jorg Mayer

Register now at:

gabeekkeeping.com



SPEAKER PREVIEW:

MEET THERESA MARTIN

By *Linda Tillman*

Theresa Martin will be giving a keynote address at GBA's fall conference and will be leading a breakout session as well. She is a very knowledgeable beekeeper who balances science with her love of bees. This interview with Theresa was a joy for me in learning about her perspective and approach. I encourage everyone to register for GBA's fall conference to go to her talks!

How did you get started in beekeeping?

A friend kept telling me I needed to keep bees. I went with him to my first local bee club meeting and I've been hooked ever since.

I know you keep 23 colonies using natural practices. What does "natural practices" mean in your definition?

For me, natural practices mean understanding how bees behave without our help, then modifying our practices to accommodate some of their preferences.

With knowledge of bee biology and behavior, the beekeeper can make better management choices to increase survival and productivity. To become informed, I read *Honey Bee Democracy* by Dr. Thomas Seeley as well as his research on colony spacing and insulation. I read both Marla Spivak's and Keith Delaplane's work on the propolis envelope. Seeley's *The Lives of Bees* refined my thinking. I have implemented some suggestions from these authors and I've added my own techniques.

"Natural" is not the same as "treatment free." I am not a treatment free beekeeper. Due to my close proximity to other beekeepers, polyandry, and the great distances queens fly to mate, I determined that sustainable treatment free without the inevitable catastrophic losses is not realistically feasible in my environment and situation.

I would term my approach as "treatment-less" meaning I treat as little as possible. I follow the Honey Bee Health Coalition Tools for Varroa Management guide and I practice Integrated pest management. I never treat prophylactically and treat individual colonies only when thresholds are exceeded.

At the Fall GBA conference, I will share the science behind why I keep bees the way I do in my presentation called "Dead



Bees Don't Make Honey: 10 Tips for Healthy Productive Bees." My goal is to help beekeepers adapt what I share to their own beekeeping approach.

Are you beekeeping on your own, or are your family members or friends involved?

I do my beekeeping alone and I sort of prefer it that way. When I started keeping bees, my husband said, "I support you 100% but don't ever ask me to help you with anything involving live bees." He encourages me and truly listens to me talk endlessly about bees. I also have a friend who is a "bee soulmate." Although she and I don't keep bees together, she helps me with things I cannot do alone, like moving a big colony.

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SPEAKER PREVIEW: MEET **THERESA MARTIN** (CONTINUED)

I know you use temperature sensors and other data collectors in your colonies. What is their importance to you?

Yes! I love my temperature sensors and rely heavily on them. I have one Broodminder T2SM temperature sensor in every colony. These temperature sensors are the best money I have spent on anything related to beekeeping. Part of the reason for my 100% survival for my entire five years and counting as a beekeeper is due to using sensors.

My GBA breakout session presentation details the useful information gleaned from these temperature sensors. I'll give concrete examples of information these sensors provide and how the sensor data lets the beekeeper make better decisions and head off problems.

All of this data collection implies that you are a researcher of some kind in real life. Do you have a scientific background?

No, I do not have a scientific background. I was an IT major in college and then spent most of my career in business doing operations management. Beekeeping is a hobby that I really enjoy. I have always found data to be helpful because it informs us in ways observation cannot.

Beekeeping is hard to do well. It's hot. The boxes are heavy. The bees sting. It's mentally and physically challenging. You need to know about the external environment and it helps to learn a little physics: fluid dynamics, thermoregulation, and insulating R values. Then, the biology of honey bees is fascinating at the individual bee level and at the super organism level. Also there is the biology of all the other creatures impacting bees, like varroa mites, small hive beetles, the many pathogens, viruses, spores, and bacteria! And there are other creatures like mice and skunks and bears, oh my! Not to mention the operational aspects of

beekeeping.

Beekeeping is never boring. No two beekeeping days are the same. No two colonies are the same. No one colony stays the same season to season and year to year. It's a never-ending challenge. I am very much in awe at the marvels of the honeybee, what they do, and how they do it. I hope I never stop learning, wondering, and asking new questions. 🐝





SPEAKER PREVIEW: MEET **ERIC MALCOLM**

SENTINEL PROGRAM CO-COORDINATOR, BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP

By *Linda Tillman*

To help GBA learn how best to take advantage of what BIP has to offer, Eric will be speaking to the GBA Presidents' Breakfast (for current local club presidents only) on Saturday morning at the fall conference in Gainesville. In addition, he will be staffing a booth for BIP where you can stop by and speak with him individually. He's happy to be a resource and promises to make his best effort to answer your questions.

Eric Malcolm's path to beekeeping went through a winery and a baby! His first exposure to beekeeping was at the Montgomery County agricultural fair in Maryland. Eric was there as a wine rep when a colleague introduced him to a chemist who was a beekeeper and was sharing her products of the hive at the fair. Eric learned all about the passion people have for bees from her and was advised by her to take a short course.

When Eric's daughter, Eden, was born, he quit his wine rep job to be a stay-at-home dad. He soon realized that he needed a hobby to be at home like this, so he visited his new beekeeper friend and took his daughter, who was only a few months old at the time. He rigged up a tent near the bee yard to protect his daughter while he toured the apiary. He fell in love with beekeeping despite the fact that the bees he visited were "mean as hell bees!"

Eric, who now works as a University of Maryland collaborator with the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), has a side business as an apiary manager. Eric is allergic to bee venom, carries an Epi-pen and always works suited up. He manages about 64 colonies in 10 different beeyards. About 40 or so of those colonies are his own, while the rest belong to other people. And his daughter, Eden, now seven, has only a passing interest in being a beekeeper.

Eric will be at the Georgia Beekeepers Association fall conference. He is a good person to meet because he is full of beekeeping information. Eric is the "first line of communications" when someone messages BIP with a question. BIP tries to connect education and science with the world of the individual beekeeper.

Eric serves as the BIP co-coordinator for their Sentinel program. This program acts as an early warning system for beekeepers about mite loads in their colonies. While until recently the Sentinel program has been about individual beekeepers monitoring their colonies, the new approach of BIP is to look



at Sentinel as a resource for clubs and the beekeepers in those clubs. The Sentinel program educates beekeepers on how to assess queen status, mite situations, and how to do thorough inspections. 🐝

2023 GBA PRESIDENTS' BREAKFAST

The Presidents' Breakfast will be held on Sept. 23, 2023, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. during GBA's fall conference in Gainesville. This event is a great opportunity to meet other club leaders and share ideas about how to make your club function better. To register [click here](#). (Local club presidents only.)

HONEY WITH A REAL BUZZ

By **Wesley Grantham**, President, Beekeepers of Madison County

I started Mellow Bear Honey in 2021 with the goal of providing a holistic alternative to pharmaceuticals. Cannabis products have helped me tremendously and I absolutely love working with honey bees. I combined these two passions to create “Honey with a Real Buzz.”

This honey is very unique in the cannabis industry since it’s a raw simple sugar infused with THC. This means it’s absorbed through chemical digestion unlike the majority of edibles on the market.

People have reported that THC infused honey helps with various physical ailments, emotional issues and difficulty sleeping. Delta-8, the legal hemp product that is infused into my honey, is likely to become more and more commonly available and used.

Mellow Bear Honey is controversial to some beekeepers because the process alters the honey bees’ hard work. I understand this angle, but the testimonies and stories of my customers outweigh others’ negative opinions of the honey. I personally believe this is a much better option than many pharmaceuticals on the market. 🐝

Learn more at: mellowbearhoney.com



THE TRAP-OUT: LESSONS LEARNED

By **Kathy Bourn**

The things beekeepers will do to save a bunch of stinging insects are just ridiculous. Performing a trap-out is a prime example. Of course if it's ridiculous, *I'll give it a try!*

My club, the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association, was contacted by Chip Thompson, the head grounds manager at the Cateechee Golf Club, about honey bees in a tree. He said they weren't really causing a problem for the golfers because the tree was on the side of the driving range. The biggest problem was getting the grounds crew to go near the bees to collect stray balls. The golf club even marked the tree as a hazard.

We checked out the bee tree last fall and LHBA member Drew Harvey brought his FLIR camera. We could see that, even though the bees were coming out at the junction of two trunks close to the ground, most of the nest was about three feet up one trunk. We decided to see if the bees survived the winter and then try a trap-out in the spring.

Well, they survived, and I had time to try my first trap-out. Karen Palmer graciously sent me a write-up she created on trap-out

techniques. This is the best method that she has learned to get bees out of their nest, whether in a building or a tree.

Having a plan is the first step. Then you need to get your equipment and tools together – and you need *a lot* of equipment and tools. My plan was to use two eight-frame medium boxes that I use to transport swarms. They have a built-in bottom board, and the boxes lock together with hive latches. There is also a screened shim on top. I drilled a hole in that shim that would allow the bees to go from the escape cone directly into the hive. They could then exit the other side of the hive. This is a deviation from other methods. Usually, you simply set a bait hive close to the cone and encourage them to move in. I thought since the entrance was close to the ground, I could force them to go through the boxes.

The key to this entire endeavor is the escape cone. Karen uses two cones, one about four inches long inside another that is twelve inches long. The tips of the cones should be the size of two drones. I found it was tricky getting the size of the hole just right.

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The bees of my first trap-out lived in a bee tree on the grounds of the Cateechee Golf Club.



Above (clockwise): Getting the cone size correct proved one of the biggest challenges. Room-darkening material placed around the cone. One challenge on this trap-out was that the bee's entrance was in the valley between two trunks. One cone, about four inches long, is inside another that is 12 inches long. Trap-outs require a lot of patience... and equipment!

Continued from previous page

Too small and it could clog up with bees and end up killing them. Too big, and the bees find their way back to the nest. I had to adjust the cone size a couple of times because it started out being too big.

One challenge on this trap-out was that the bee's entrance was in the valley between two trunks. It wasn't a matter of just having a hole that you could cover with the cone. I fashioned #8 hardware cloth in the valley and then tried positioning the cones. On my first try, I realized that the bees were getting around the small cone, so I ended up only using a big cone. The lesson here is to secure the cones to the flat hardware cloth first.

I screwed the hardware cloth to the tree but I put metal roof ventilation material between the wire and the tree. This helped mold the wire to the bark and the bees couldn't chew through it. Karen recommends using fast-drying cement to seal around the wire and I will try that the next time. I liked the fact that I could unscrew the hardware cloth when I was done. I also brought steel wool and it worked to close a couple of small backdoor entrances.

Once the cone was in place, I set the hive boxes. On the first trip, I didn't bring the right material to get the hive to the right height, so I made another trip with some 2X lumber. That put the hole in the top shim at the level of the cone. A handy tip here is to bring pruning loppers to cut away any pesky branches or undergrowth. I put in a frame of pollen and nectar along with two frames of mostly open brood/eggs and some drawn comb. My hope was that the nurse bees would come out to tend to the brood or that they would make a new queen.

I checked them after a couple of days and there were plenty of bees going through the boxes but some found another entrance.

I closed that up and I also put some room-darkening material around the cone. I was hoping that would help them see the light. I gave them a couple more weeks and checked again. By now the flow was on and they filled both boxes, so I added a third. After a couple more weeks they were full of honey, pollen and bees but no queen. I gave them another frame of eggs.

They got a total of six weeks to make the move but still no old queen or queen cells so I decided to take the hive and close up the tree. Three boxes were full of bees and there were very few coming out of the cone. I unscrewed everything and here is where the fast-drying cement comes in handy. I simply cemented up the entrance.

I brought the bees to my home yard and gave them another chance to make a queen. Cateechee Golf Club works hard to support pollinators and they would like to have managed bee hives on the property so LHBA will work to make that happen with different bees.

So the lessons I learned on this trap-out are:

- Get the most experienced advice you can ahead of time.
- Try to think of every possible scenario so you don't have to make twenty trips for the right tools and realize that you will need an assortment of tools.
- Anticipate that the bees are going to work very hard to outwit you.
- Count on this being a multi-week project.
- Don't be disappointed if you don't get the queen to come out.
- If you're getting bees out of a tree on a golf course, learn to dodge incoming golf balls. *Leaving your bee jacket and veil on helps soften the blows!* 🍷



Plants for Bees: Mountain Mint



By **Kaitlin Swintek**

Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum*) is an herbaceous perennial member of the mint family. Entomologists know mountain mint for its pollinator attractiveness. However, many gardeners have only heard of broad-leaved mountain mint (*P. muticum*), which can be considered a weed due to its vigor. Many people do not know the genus holds another 18 species besides broad-leaved mountain mint, all with a variety of characteristics. Native to North America, 18 of the *Pycnanthemum* species are located within the central and eastern U.S., while only one species, *P. californicum*, is located in California.

Mountain mint is identifiable by its densely clustered small, tubular flowers. The flowers can range from white to purple, some with purple speckling. Certain species also stand out among other greenery due to the leaves that whiten as they mature, giving the plant a frosted appearance. The key to identifying mountain mint against other look-alikes lies in the fragrance. When bruised, the leaves emit a scent similar to mint or thyme.

Mountain mint can be misleading in its first year, growing low and sprawling. However, in the second year, plants will double in height and send more erect shoots. Flowering is also more prevalent during the second year of growth.

Insects love mountain mint. Bees, wasps, and flies buzz from flower to flower throughout the day. Butterflies and moths dash from one mountain mint to another, hoping to visit each of the hundreds of flowers. Honey bees especially like to gather on mountain mint, reluctant to leave once they've found a batch of flowers. Mountain mint attracts a variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects, making them candidates for pollinator conservation efforts. The genus could help bridge gaps between pollinator resources in urban settings. 🐝

You Can Help

Kaitlin Swintek is a graduate student in the UGA Horticulture department and is very interested in bringing plants that actually attract pollinators to the big box stores. Her research focuses on encouraging public participation in pollinator conservation by breeding plants for landscape-worthy traits and pollinator support and she can use your help.

Kaitlin is in need of volunteers to help collect observational data on pollinators

visiting varieties of mountain mint. This research will help determine which mountain mints would be best for pollinators and which ones to bring to market. The field plots are behind the bee lab which is located at the horticulture farm in Watkinsville.

The project involves observing 15 *Pycnanthemum* (mountain mint) species to determine which pollinators – and how many – are visiting each species. It requires an hour here and there over the summer months to observe. This research is geared toward helping our pollinators and bringing awareness to those that may not understand their importance.

If you're able to give any time to this project contact Kaitlin Swintek at: kaitlin.swintek@uga.edu



Photo: Kaitlin Swintek

Carpenter bee on *P. tenuifolium*



Photo: Kaitlin Swintek



Photo: Kaitlin Swintek



Photo: Mark Shields

Above (L to R): A patch of *P. muticum*; Mountain mint attracts a variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects; Honey bee visiting *Pycnanthemum muticum*, short-toothed mountain mint.

A Slight Trick of the Mind

Mitch Cullin

Book review by **David Hinton**

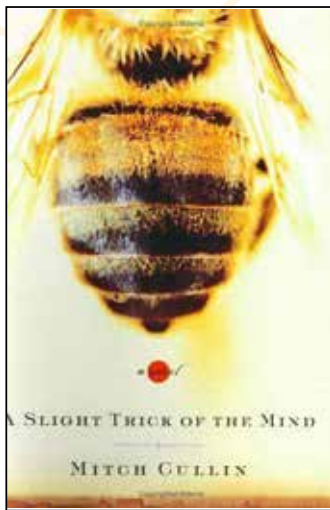
To those numerous beekeepers who have asked me to recommend a novel concerning beekeeping, I can now respond with a real treat: *A Slight Trick of the Mind* by Mitch Cullin.

What could be better than a novel about beekeeping whose main character is none other than that world-famous detective (but not so famous beekeeper) Sherlock Holmes?

Sherlock Holmes has fascinated me since I was a young boy, when I regularly watched the original Sherlock Holmes movies starring Basil Rathbone as Sherlock and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson. As a 20-year-old college student backpacking around Europe, I made a Sherlock Holmes pilgrimage in London, visiting 221B Baker Street, where Holmes roomed, and other sites associated with his stories. My wife and fellow beekeeper tries to remind me that Holmes is a fictional character. As far as I'm concerned, the fact that Holmes spent his retirement years beekeeping makes him even more real.

But the Sherlock Holmes in *A Slight Trick of the Mind* is a far different Holmes than in the original stories, movies, and TV shows. The year is 1947, and Holmes is now 93 years old. Once famed as a person of uncanny powers of observation and spell-binding powers of deduction, Holmes must now deal with a failing body and even worse, a mind becoming increasingly forgetful and unfocused. He needs the physical assistance of his housekeeper's young son to maintain his apiary at his remote residence on the Sussex coast.

A Slight Trick of the Mind is one of the most beautifully written, and penetratingly thoughtful books that I have read in a long time. It tells three interconnecting stories: his present (1947) solitary life with only the company of his housekeeper, a war widow, and her young son; a flashback story about his visit to post-war Japan, from which he has just returned; and a Sherlock Holmes case study, narrated not by Dr. Watson but by Holmes himself. The case involves a young married woman whose strange grief-stricken behavior following a baby lost in childbirth leads her husband to engage Holmes. As the mystery in the case study unfolds, we learn that Holmes has fallen in love with the enigmatic young woman who becomes



the one and only love of Holmes' life.

Retiring in his early forties, Holmes discovers beekeeping and his preoccupation with bees becomes so intense that he writes and publishes *A Practical Handbook of Bee Culture*. "Until the age of forty-eight, I had scarcely a passing interest for bees and the world of the hive," Holmes reveals, "however, by my forty-ninth year, I could think of nothing else."

Early in the book, Holmes explains his preoccupation with bees in health terms — he keeps bees primarily as a source of royal jelly. ". . . his usual morning meal of royal jelly spread upon fried bread—the royal jelly, rich in vitamins of the B-complex and containing

substantial amounts of sugars, proteins, and certain organic acids, was essential to maintaining his well-being and stamina; without its nourishment, he felt positive, his body had suffered somewhat, as had his retention."

But it isn't until the book's ending that we learn that the real reason for his connection to bees can be found in the mystery of the young married woman with whom he had become so enamored.

In this book, Sherlock is not just a 93-year-old man having to come to grips with a failing mind and failing body. It is also a story of a man becoming more fully human so late in life and having to realize how the mind that made him so famous as a problem-solving detective was also a mind that shut him down emotionally and denied him the experience of love.

A movie version of the book, *Mr. Holmes*, was made in 2015 starring Ian McKellen and Laura Linney. To view the movie's trailer, [click here](#). 🍿

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.



CUTE AS CAN BEE!

Honey sales don't go on a holiday according to Tessa Bader. She was on vacation with her grandfather, Kevin McCraney, a Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association member, and Tessa decided this was a good opportunity to sell honey. They camped at the Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae and Tessa set up a honey table at the campground. The five-year-old told her family that she wanted to make enough money to take them all skating. 🐝



Useful Links for Local Club Presidents



• 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**.



Share Your Club's Upcoming Meeting Plans With Us!

We want to know (and share) what events and activities your local club has planned.

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. Thank you! 🐝



Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	president@gabeekeeping.com	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	secretary@gabeekeeping.com	
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	treasurer@gabeekeeping.com	334-540-1102
DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	blueskyhoney@live.com	706-540-4166
Cindy Hodges	Metro Atlanta	HodgesHoney@gmail.com	770-861-2112
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	pastpresident@gabeekeeping.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

2023 Lafayette Honeybee Festival

By **Olivia M. Menard**, Secretary, TriCounty Beekeepers Club, **Karen Miller**, Vice President, Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association, and **Wade Hutcheson**, Walker County Extension Agent

Georgia Beekeepers Association (GBA) joined forces with Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association (NWGBA), Tennessee Valley Beekeepers Association (TVBA), and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) from Walker and Catoosa Counties for a fun-filled variety of educational displays at the 2023 Lafayette Honeybee Festival. Thousands of festival-goers and over 180 arts and crafts vendors filled the streets of downtown LaFayette, Georgia, on Saturday, June 3rd. Music, food, and craft vendors came together to create a pollinator palooza for bee friends from around the region.

Along Main Street was a huge, white tent dedicated to pollinator education where GBA members provided information on the role honeybees play in pollinating plants that make the food we eat every day, shared recipes that use honey in creative ways, and spread the word about Georgia's gorgeous *Save the Honey Bee* license plate.

The Georgia honeybee license plate is available to anyone – not just beekeepers. Advertising the plate at events like this makes that more obvious to our Georgia car owners. Anyone purchasing a Georgia honeybee license plate contributes to the grant program that makes educational programs like these possible across Georgia.

A dozen members of the NWGBA and TVBA answered bee-related questions, challenged visitors with photos where they could test their skills at finding a queen bee, showed off various beekeeping tools and hive components, and demonstrated how honey is extracted - children thoroughly enjoyed getting to turn the extractor crank and taste the honey fresh out of the comb! A tabletop observation hive gave beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike an awe-inspiring look inside a live beehive.

Wade Wright, a Catoosa County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer (MGEV) shared pollinator plant seeds with the public. Local Walker County MGEVs **Sheila Collins**, **Jackie McGintis**, and **Jill Woodward** held a workshop on making native bee houses using old dog food cans filled with bamboo and pinecones. These materials give tiny resin bees, mason bees, and leafcutter bees a place to lay eggs and store food to overwinter safely – not to mention a fun educational experience for young and old who have the pleasure of seeing one of our little native pollinators emerge from a long winter rest right in their own backyard!

Four educational seminars were held in a historic brick schoolhouse near the education tent. Walker County extension agent, **Wade Hutcheson**, shared information about the upcoming Great Southeast Pollinator Census (gsepc.org). UGA Master Beekeeper, **Olivia M. Menard**, presented a history of beekeeping. UGA master beekeeper **Mary Cahill-Roberts** gave

two seminars: Certified Naturally Grown and Basic Bee Nutrition, and Apitherapy, the use of hive products for everyday health and treatment.

Brutz English of Liberty Hill Honey Company and **Mary Cahill-Roberts** of Swarm Chasers Apiary, both former GBA Beekeepers of the Year, UGA Master Beekeepers, and Senior Welsh Honey Judges, were on hand judging the honey and artisan show. The Welsh Honey Show gives local beekeepers and artists a venue for showcasing their products. Cash awards draw highly competitive entries from around the state. To capture the interest of talented youth, this honey show has two special categories reserved for children's artwork related to beekeeping.

Festival goers who are new to beekeeping and spectators to this ancient craft were exposed to a diverse display of honey, condiments, baked goods, cosmetics, and artwork sure to inspire a lasting curiosity and awareness of the importance of our beloved *Apis mellifera*. Seasoned beekeepers found inspiration and rejuvenation in the creative submissions, as well.

Some of the NWGBA volunteers who helped make the education tent a success included **Brian Harding**, **Liz Arrington**, **Jim & Dee Killcrease**, **Charlotte Schuyt**, **Kathy Jackson**, **Sharon Starling**, **Karen Miller**, **Doug & Krista Rustay**, **Bob Lemeke**, and **Mike Thornberry**. There were just so many great beekeepers on hand to answer questions and share their knowledge and love of the honeybee that we just couldn't meet them all. If you were on hand to help out and we missed mentioning you in this article, please know that your contributions were deeply appreciated. 🍯



GBA members Jon & Summer Cordell, Mary Cahill-Roberts, and Olivia M Menard (who took this photo) set up and helped staff the GBA booth; NWGBA member Kathy Jackson leads a honey extraction demonstration; Visitors viewing an observation hive brought by TVBA; Best in Show Amber Extracted honey, by Karen Miller, VP of NWGBA.

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Beekeepers of Gilmer County



Above: In June, Beekeepers of Gilmer County members Steve Towe and Lloyd Vautrot inspected the club's hives after requeening earlier this year. Susan Wells, the new club vice president, talked about the importance of bee math. Over 20 members and guests also received handouts to help them learn bee math. On July 30th several club members will educate the residents of Manor Lake, an assisted living and memory care facility in Ellijay on the importance of saving the honey bee.

Clarks Hill / Lake Country Beekeepers

The Clarks Hill and Lake Country Beekeepers Associations offered a queen-rearing class on Saturday, June 3rd. This one-day course offered a group of experienced beekeepers the reasons, methods, biology, calendar, equipment, and techniques of queen rearing. During the day, each beekeeper learned to graft with live larvae, mark a queen, prepare queen candy, and place a queen inside a queen cage. **Ted and Sharon Kuhn** and **Mary Lacksen** presented this joint learning opportunity to their fellow club members. Knowing and understanding the methods of queen rearing offer many advantages for producing your own queen cells for a small-scale beekeeper. 🐝



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, June 20th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. There was no formal program this month. Instead, the members enjoyed a hamburger/hotdog cookout. It was a pleasant evening eating and enjoying fellowship with like-minded beekeepers. Our July meeting will be Tuesday, July 18th. Mentoring begins at 6:30 and the program at 7:00. The program will be Beekeeping Gadgets. Come check out gadgets that may be useful to your beekeeping endeavors as well as those that were not so successful. If you have a gadget you would like to share, please come. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook www.hogba.org. 🐝

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

Lake County Beekeepers Association hosted the Greening Youth Foundation from Atlanta on Thursday, June 15th at the Sparta Hancock County Library. This GYF group of 15 elementary-age children came to learn about honey bees. Afternoon activities included collecting pollen and nectar, dressing like a beekeeper, tasting honey, and watching as beekeepers made a live hive inspection. The highlight was finding and marking the queen. Thanks to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and Whole Kids Foundation for making funding for bee suits and outdoor hives possible for LCBA outreach and education. 🐝



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

We know about the honey bees' connection with the botanical world but that extends to the beekeeper. Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association members **Holli Kircher** and **Kathy Bourn** were asked to share their knowledge of honey bees with the members of the Hart County Botanical Garden. The presentation to the Friends of the Garden included all the information needed to get to know the honey bee along with a display of hive products and an observation hive of live bees.



At our June meeting, LHAB members got all the pro tips on how to manage a bee business from Master Beekeeper **Marcus Pollard**. Tips were covered from the different ways to market your hive products to the safest business structure for your company. 🐝

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SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

SOWEGA mascot BUZZEE awarded checks to two local "bee-loving" elementary students who won this year's SOWEGA Beekeepers Club annual T-shirt design contest. Students submitted drawings that celebrate the importance of honey bees, and the incredible task honey bees perform by pollinating plants and making honey. These winning t-shirt designs will be one of the giveaways to all kids registered to attend the club's Family Honey Bee Festival, on July 15th at Riverfront Resource Center in Albany Ga. SOWEGA Beekeepers Club continues to be appreciative of the GBA License Plate Grant Fund. These granted funds make it possible for the club to create opportunities to share the magic of bees at educational events. It's not too late to register to participate in all the Bee Family Fun. Register at SowegaBeekeepersClub.com



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At MABA's June meeting, guest speaker **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** (right) spoke on the topic of *Understanding The Future Of Bee Medicine And Its Challenges In Federal Regulation*. In his presentation, Bartlett walked beekeepers through the current arguments within the current federal regulatory environment. New treatments and supplements for honey bees, as well as how those regulations might need to change with upcoming "on-the-horizon" approaches to improving bee health were discussed.



On June 24th, MABA board members **Charlie Scott** (above) and **Mark Shields** staffed MABA's booth at Decatur's National Pollinator Week Festival, showing off an observation hive and answering questions from the public. Held on downtown Decatur square, the event featured some 35 environmental organizations and drew hundreds of attendees.

MABA's July 18 meeting will feature **Linda Tillman** and **Gail Dean** speaking about preparing entries for a honey show. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm with meeting following at 7 pm.

Tri-County Beekeepers / Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Beekeepers are now better armed to do battle with the varroa mite. Tri-County Beekeepers and the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association conducted a one-day training session on how to test for mite loads and apply mite treatments safely. Thirty-five students attended the class at the UGA Cooperative Extension office in Athens.

Dr. Lewis Bartlett taught an indoor class and then **Bobby Chaisson** conducted a demonstration outdoors on the proper method for doing an alcohol wash and assessing a sticky board. **Dan Long** then showed how to properly apply several miticides. The two clubs funded the Varroa Day class using a grant from the GBA *Save the Honey Bee License Plate Fund*.



SBK HONEYBEE FESTIVAL

SOWEGA BEEKEEPERS KIDS

SATURDAY, JULY 15
10:00am - 2:00pm
Ages 4 - 14
(children must be accompanied by an adult)
\$5.00 per Child / Adults free
 Hot Dog Lunch Included

Riverfront Resource Center
125 Pine Avenue in Downtown Albany

Photo Booth
Free Family Picture

STEM Education Stations

Bee School Education

Honey Recipe Demonstration For Adults

Bee Goodie Bags

Live Observation Bee Hive

Free T-shirt With Registration

Register online:
<https://www.facebook.com/savebeeswithsbk>

For more information call (229) 457-1806

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club in Albany, Georgia is sponsoring a family Honey Bee Festival on **July 15th**. Register your children for this day of honey bee fun at www.sowegabeekeepersclub.com or call 229-457-1806 for more information.

Club Meetings*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	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 Hebron Baptist Christian Academy 775 Dacula Road, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Jul. 11	Dr. Lewis J. Bartlett of the UGA Bee Lab	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm	Jul. 10	Inspection In The Apiary (5 pm); Presentation On Honey Extraction – Susan Wells (6:30 pm)	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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	Jul. 10	Bee Nutrition – Mary Cahill-Roberts	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Jul. 6	Honey Bee Pests and Diseases – Cindy Hodges	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, 7pm			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			etowahrivereekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Jul. 27	Jul. 22: Annual Disease and Disorder Day – Learn how to inspect, identify, and combat issues in the hive Jul. 27: Winter Prep for Beekeeping – Butch Shelton	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)	Jul. 18	Beekeeping Gadgets	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Jul. 11	Third Quarter Honeybee Management	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* (cont'd)

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake 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, 6:30pm			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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Jul. 18	How To Prepare For A Honey Show – Linda Tillman and Gail Dean	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, 5:30pm			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
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 Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	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	Jul. 10	Oxalic Acid And Changing Laws Around Its Use – Dr. David T. Peck, Director of Research and Education with Betterbee	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



Spilling *The* Honey

AUGUST 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteer energy is what makes the Georgia Beekeepers Association a leader among state beekeeping organizations. I was told again last week that other states look at how we manage for a strong example of ongoing education and fun.

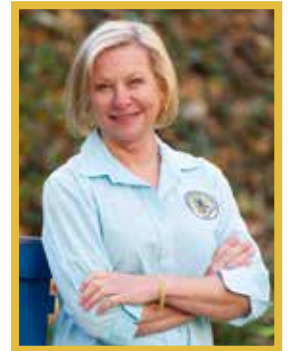
I want to applaud all those who serve currently and who have served in the past. Many of us have been giving our spare time and helping for years and years! The GBA officers, the Board of Directors, all our Beekeepers of the Year, all our local club presidents, and all the local clubs' officers make GBA a great association. Almost all of us volunteered for a position and then did more by leading a committee, working on a story or photos for our newsletter, and contributing our natural talents and expertise in a myriad of ways. It is not practical here to list everyone's names but they are easily found on our website, Facebook page, and newsletter. *A heartfelt thank you and recognition to everyone for all that you do for GBA!*

Each year at this time, we are looking for dedicated individuals to join and serve in officer positions for the Georgia Beekeepers Association. Specifically, **we are seeking candidates for the positions of Northwest Georgia Director, Southeast Georgia Director, Southwest Georgia Director, Treasurer, and Secretary.** Thank you so much to the people who have been currently serving in those positions: NW Director, **Monica Sheppard**; SE Director, **Karen Palmer**; SW Director, **Emily Heath**; Treasurer, **Luke Ellerman**; Secretary, **Mark Shields**.

If you are passionate about beekeeping and willing to serve your fellow beekeepers, please consider running for one of these positions. You are welcome to nominate yourself or a fellow beekeeper. Together we can work towards the betterment of Georgia's beekeeping community. Please email with your interest by August 31, 2023 to president@gabeekeeping.com. We will vote on these positions at the conference in Gainesville in September.

In GBA conference news, please be aware that the talk by Dr. Lewis Bartlett, on Saturday will count toward continuing education credits for those who do bee removal work. 🐝

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Register Now!

Conference preview coverage, see pages 6 - 11



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Gail Dean

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia **Save The Honey Bee** License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.





FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

UGA Veterinary School

By Joerg Mayer

Educating veterinarians about honey bee health has become more of a necessity now that prescriptions for antibiotics to treat foulbrood diseases require veterinary services. UGA's vet school is preparing its students to be able to serve beekeepers when they begin practicing.

The UGA Vet School has an amazing program teaching veterinary students about honey bee health and management. They participate in all facets of colony management using Apimaye equipment. This hive style lends itself to the use of cutting-edge technologies to monitor colony health. GBA License Plate funds have been used to purchase equipment for this endeavor. 🐝

LEARN MORE ABOUT BEES & UGA'S VETERINARY PROGRAM

Joerg Mayer will be a featured speaker at the fall GBA conference in September ([see conference preview article on page 9](#)). He will deliver a keynote address titled *Apitherapy Studies At The UGA Vet School*, as well as the Friday night dinner talk, where his topic will be *Comparing The Art Of Beekeeping To Micro Farming*. [Register here.](#)



The UGA Vet School teaching apiary in Athens, GA.

Fantastic Beekeeping Adventure **BEGINS AT WORK**

By *Beth Arechiga*

Everyone takes a different path to begin their beekeeping adventure. For me, it all started when my CEO, Leigh McIntosh, said she would love to have bees here at Creative Enterprises, a training and employment program for adults with disabilities.

I was happy to learn what would be involved to make that happen. I began by calling the Beekeepers Club of Gwinnett County. Mike Conner, the club's president, and Olivia Menard came out to tour our Creative Enterprises Gwinnett Campus. Their visit began a process of gathering funding and knowledge for what would become our future apiary. Olivia became my mentor and helped me through the step-by-step process of setting up my bee yard. I attended two bee schools, and two conferences, filled out three grant proposals, and submitted funding/donation requests. By the time I attended the spring GBA conference, I was excited to receive equipment donations from Mike, funding from Creative Enterprises for the apiary, and more funding from GBA's Save the Honey Bee license plate fund!

I also helped out at my club members' apiaries, watched Bob Binnie and Kamon Reynolds on YouTube, and never missed a club meeting along the way. No matter how much I prepared myself or how much I thought I knew, my first spring with bees was a train wreck! I felt like I always needed something and was chasing the growth of my bees but losing the race. I worried about everything, all the time. Mike and Olivia were my saving

grace. They always calmly said, "Well, of course, that happened, it happens to all of us."

The purpose of the GBA Save the Honey Bee License Plate Fund is to help beekeepers around the state promote education about honey bees. The people who oversee this program help you through the process so you do not get overwhelmed and in over your head. They are amazing people who allow you to step forward as soon as you are able and gently guide you where you need to go from the moment you embark on this journey. I started with two hives (both swarmed at different times so as not to break my heart too deeply).



On June 17th, Creative Enterprises hosted a UGA Gwinnett County Extension beekeeping class called "Show Me the Honey." I participated and displayed all my various stages of queen cells during a show-and-tell session. We went out to the apiary, and I presented my frames for people to see. When I decided to have an apiary, I fell in love. But, to share this passion with other people, to see the love in their eyes, and to experience their excitement spilling over into our conversations, created an even deeper passion.

Thank you to Creative Enterprises and Leigh McIntosh for allowing me to create our apiary. Thank you to Beekeepers of Gwinnett County for making me a member of your family. Thank you to Olivia for getting me through my first spring. Thank you to GBA for teaching me and supplying the funding to start this fantastic adventure. 🐝



BEEKEEPING AND LIABILITY IN GEORGIA

By *Brutz English*

While beekeepers and beekeeping do not have blanket immunity from all legal claims in Georgia, there are several laws on the books that do limit a beekeeper's legal exposure. Georgia's Freedom to Farm Act and Georgia's Agritourism statutes both provide significant legal protections to Georgia's beekeepers.

Georgia's Freedom to Farm Act specifically recognizes "the production and keeping of honeybees, the production of honeybee products, and honeybee processing facilities" as bona fide agricultural operations, and "any land, building, structure, pond, impoundment, appurtenance, machinery, or equipment which is used for the commercial production or processing of... honeybees, honeybee products" as bona fide agricultural facilities. (See O.C.G.A. § 41-1-7.)

The Freedom to Farm Act protects beekeepers from legal actions and lawsuits alleging the beekeeper might be either a public or private nuisance. The caveat for this protection is that the beekeepers must have been in operation at the given location for two years or more and that the beekeeper must be a commercial producer. If those requirements are met, and the beekeeper is otherwise operating lawfully, the beekeeper is completely shielded from all public and private nuisance complaints.

In Georgia, "Agritourism" means charging admission for persons to visit, view, or participate in the operation of a farm... or production of farm... products for entertainment or educational purposes or selling farm... products to persons who visit such farm or dairy. See O.C.G.A. § 48-5-7.4(p)(7)(B). Georgia's Agritourism statute (O.C.G.A. § 51-3-31) protects beekeepers from civil liability for any injuries caused by the inherent risk associated with agritourism activity provided that a) the person is 18 years old or older, b) the beekeeper has posted the statutorily required sign at the entrance to the property, and c) the person has signed a written waiver. If the beekeeper complies with these statutory requirements, they are completely shielded from any claims for injuries sustained by an individual visiting the beekeeper's property.

Each of the above statutes can provide significant legal protections to almost any beekeeper. However, there are particulars to each of these laws that a beekeeper must comply with to be able to claim the protections offered under either statute.

NOTE: The information above is intended as a general guide, and it is *not* comprehensive legal advice. If you are faced with a potential legal issue, you should *always* seek the counsel and advice of a licensed attorney in your jurisdiction. 🇺🇸



APIMONDIA
48TH INTERNATIONAL **CHILE**
APICULTURAL CONGRESS **2023**
September 4th - 8th, 2023

This year's 48th International Apiculture Congress takes place September 4-8 in Santiago, Chile.

"Sustainable Beekeeping From the South of the World" is the theme of this year's congress, and the latest beekeeping science and apiculture ideas will be on display at its ApiEXPO. During the event, beekeepers, scientists, and entrepreneurs will share insights and activities that promote the health and well-being of the honey bee. [For registration and program information, go to the Apimondia 2023 website.](#) 🇺🇸





2023 FALL CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Whether you're a new beekeeper or a seasoned professional, GBA's fall conference will educate, energize and **inspire** you!

Featuring Keynote Speakers:



Lewis Bartlett



Dewey M. Caron



Brock Harpur



Theresa Martin



Isaac Weinberg



Jorg Mayer

Register now at:

gabeekeeping.com




SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: GEORGIA MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

By *Jennifer Berry*

If you've ever thought about becoming a Master Beekeeper, *this fall is your opportunity to begin!* The UGA Bee program and GBA are excited to partner in hosting the popular Georgia Master Beekeeper program during GBA's fall conference in Gainesville, September 21-23. Instruction and testing will be available for all four program grades: Certified (entry-level), Journeyman, Master Beekeeper, and Master Craftsman. **All program details are available here**, including instructions to local clubs who wish to host training and testing opportunities throughout the year for beekeepers in their communities.

Since its inception in 2002, the Master Beekeeper Program (previously presented as part of the Young Harris Institute) has garnered more than 1,200 certified participants from 21 states and two countries. The Georgia Master Beekeeper program recognizes entry-level certificate holders from sister master beekeeper programs in other states, permitting these individuals to sit for the journeyman training and exams. Please note that any applicant, in-state or out, who wishes to sit for the journeyman exam must have held their certified rank for at least one calendar year prior to testing.

Applicants to the certified level must sign an affidavit and pass a brief qualifying oral exam to testify that they have at least one year's worth of hands-on beekeeping experience before they sit for exams. Participants at all levels of the program deepen their science-based knowledge and love of the craft of beekeeping and invariably become industry leaders in their home communities and beyond. **Register here.** 





SPEAKER PREVIEW:

MEET ISAAC WEINBERG

A CUTTING-EDGE HONEY BEE RESEARCHER

By *Linda Tillman*

Dr. Isaac Weinberg didn't know he was going to become a beekeeper. He said, "None of my friends and none of my family were beekeepers and they are still often surprised that this is what I have chosen to do with my life (and honestly I often am too!)."

But he was interested in ecology and actually started out studying snails and their genetics as an undergraduate at the University of Iowa. After college he applied to PhD programs in labs studying both ants and bees, as he found the idea of superorganisms fascinating. He accepted an offer to study in Dr. Phil Starks' lab at Tufts University. The Tufts biology department studied a broad range of topics, and had no specific entomology focus. However, as luck would have it, many of the grad students there were studying pollinators, so he sort of "fell into" studying social insects and honey bees.

He had his first beekeeping experience in 2018 in Phil Starks' lab at Tufts, when the principal investigator (PI) at the lab took him into the beeyard to install nucs for their research project. While the PI came out one or two times to show him what to do, Isaac was mainly in charge of their 21 hives by himself. He watched YouTube videos whenever something came up that challenged him and consulted with Rachel Bonoan, who had just graduated with her PhD from the same lab one year prior. (Rachel has spoken to GBA about her work with bees and dirty water.)

Isaac likes the idea of many bees working together toward a common goal. Upon studying the superorganism, he refined his interest and focus toward the concept of emergence. He explained emergence as how changes in the behavior and input of individuals affects the group as a whole. An example of this would be how a school of fish changes direction when it sees a shark, even if the shark is only seen by one or two of the fish. Changes in the movement of the few individuals who saw the shark ripple through the school, changing its entire direction, even though only a few of the individuals know why they are changing course. Or if you dump a swarm of bees in front of a hive with a ramp to the entry, they all seem to move as a group toward the entry, but really each bee is gauging her path by following the bee just in front of her. While it appears as if the whole group has made a decision, really the group movement is a consequence of each individual bee relative to the one in front of her.

Isaac just moved to Georgia about a month ago. He splits his time between his place with his girlfriend in Decatur and his apartment in Athens. When Isaac is in Decatur, he and his




girlfriend spend their time playing Dungeons and Dragons, watching sci-fi, and playing board games like Twilight Imperium.

He works for a startup company in Athens, **Dalan Animal Health**, where they are developing the first vaccine against American foulbrood. The vaccine is administered to the queen, after which it impacts eggs she lays, so you only have to vaccinate the queen, rather than all the individual bees. This is the only place in the world where vaccines for honey bees have been successfully developed.

Isaac will be speaking to GBA about his dissertation research on temperature in the hive and how it affects where bees store food and brood in their hives. He looked at where and why bees choose to raise brood in certain parts of the honey comb and where they store honey and pollen.

Isaac is a very engaging person and will be a fun speaker to hear. He says he is eager to speak to a group of beekeepers. His usual presentations are to scientists, researchers and students. He's delighted to be coming to GBA. He says, "I'm excited to learn what actual beekeepers are doing and thinking."

Isaac was a delight to interview and I am sure you'll enjoy his talk at the GBA Fall Conference. **Register here.** 



SPEAKER PREVIEW:

MEET JOERG MAYER

EXOTIC VETERINARIAN PROFESSOR AND BEEKEEPER

By *Linda Tillman*

If you are the owner of a mini pig or an unusual lizard that becomes ill, Dr. Joerg Mayer, at UGA's veterinary clinic can help you. Joerg's specialty is exotic animals. He has treated all sorts of animals from a Madagascar hissing cockroach to a leopard gecko. His UGA clinic treats any exotic animal that lives in your house, but don't bring him a dog or a cat!

Before coming to UGA, Joerg worked in the veterinary school at Tufts University. In 2005, while he lived in Massachusetts, he started beekeeping ("Before it was really sexy!" he says.) He took his first beekeeping course from the Woodstock beekeepers, the oldest bee club in the country. He set up hives in his backyard and one day he came home to find a stranger taking apart his beehives. The man was the county apiary inspector who happened to be driving by and saw the beehives. As the official inspector, the man said he had the right to open any beehive he sees. Joerg befriended the inspector and learned a lot from him.

Joerg brought his interest in bees with him when he moved to Athens thirteen years ago. He is on faculty in the veterinary college there in the department of small animal medicine and surgery. "I had to relearn beekeeping," he said. "It's really different from Massachusetts to keep bees in Georgia - we need to feed them. All beekeeping is local, right?" At this point he has two hives at home and twelve colonies at the UGA veterinary school.

He has gotten funding from GBA through the license plate program to get equipment to start his UGA vet school apiary. The UGA veterinary students have a unique opportunity, the only one in the country, to learn specifically about taking care of honey bees. To support this, UGA has a new bee club with about 100 members, about forty of whom fairly regularly go through the hives with Joerg.

"For many students having their head in the hive is great. I want to introduce younger students to something where they have direct contact with a living organism. I use the bee to demonstrate thinking about all kinds of vet concepts," Joerg says. UGA's integration of honey bee care into the vet school curriculum makes its veterinary program the most robust in the country. **The university is really proud of the program** and sees the importance of the need.


At the GBA Fall Conference, Joerg is giving a keynote talk on apiary studies at the vet school. He will discuss the use of bee venom to treat cancer in exotic animals with a couple of case examples. He is excited about how apitherapy applies to animal



patients. In addition to that keynote at the conference, he will also be the dinner speaker on Friday night. **Register for the dinner when you register for the conference** to hear this engaging speaker talk about how keeping bees is a form of micro farming.

While veterinary medicine has its ups and downs, Joerg says, "Although I have been a vet for 25 years, I have never been happier than I am, now that I am involved with honey bees and veterinary medicine." His passion is awakened anytime a question is posed when the answer is "We don't really know." That answer fuels his curiosity and awakens his hope that veterinarians can be a huge part of what is threatening honey bees right now.

As the need for veterinarians in work with honey bees increases, Joerg sees it as a "delicate dance. Work between the two (beekeepers and veterinarians) has to involve openness on both sides." Since the government has changed the rules about antibiotics, requiring a beekeeper needing the medicine to get a prescription from a vet, it has become a sort of "shotgun wedding," which will only work if both the veterinarian and the beekeeper see that they can learn from each other.

When Joerg spoke at MABA, the whole room lit up with his friendly, engaging energy. If you have never heard him speak, don't miss the opportunity to hear his thoughts and ideas at the GBA Fall Conference. **Register here.** 



SPEAKER PREVIEW:

MEET BROCK HARPUR

OPENING UP THE WORLD OF HONEY BEE GENETICS

By *Linda Tillman*

Dr. Brock Harpur has been interested in bees for nearly 18 years. Because of Brock's childhood interest in insects and biology, a family friend took him beekeeping. Brock was hooked as soon as they opened the top of the first colony.

Brock now has his own lab at Purdue University, where he and his colleagues focus mostly on honey bees. His work examines how honey bees are successful. "Honey bees have colonized almost every continent, a range that results from both natural and artificial expansions," he says. Honey bees, for example, are not native to North America, but are now found all over the country in trees as well as in beekeepers' backyards.

Brock's research program "uses genetics to understand what makes social species like honey bees so successful." His discoveries are likely to help bee breeders as well as beekeepers to incorporate genetics into their decision making. You may remember when we put out a request for participants in one of Brock Harpur's studies. Julia Mahood helped collect the material, using a

GBA license plate proceeds grant. She sent 100 samples to Brock for his study. When the study is complete, he will send the results to each of us who contributed our bees to the study – a sort of "23 & Bee" set of genetic information about the dead bees we each sent him.

Brock's Purdue lab is doing work on giant hornets and ants as well. They have three major projects right now. They are working on understanding the genetics of honey bees across the US (that's the study in which many of us in GBA are participating); exploring how genetics and environment impact male reproductive ability; and applying genetic data to bee breeding.

Brock is giving two keynote talks at the GBA Fall Conference. Kicking off the conference as a whole, his first talk is titled: History And Lessons On Honey Bee Genetics Through The Eyes Of A Drone. His second talk is just after lunch on Saturday and is titled: Honey Bee Genetics of the U.S. With Special Emphasis on Georgia.

When asked what he hoped the audience would come away with, Brock said, "I hope an appreciation for the historical genetic work that has taken place with honey bees and understand a bit more about bee genetics and why it matters to their practice." 🍯





WILL YOU **BEE A BAKER** FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE?


By *Linda Tillman*

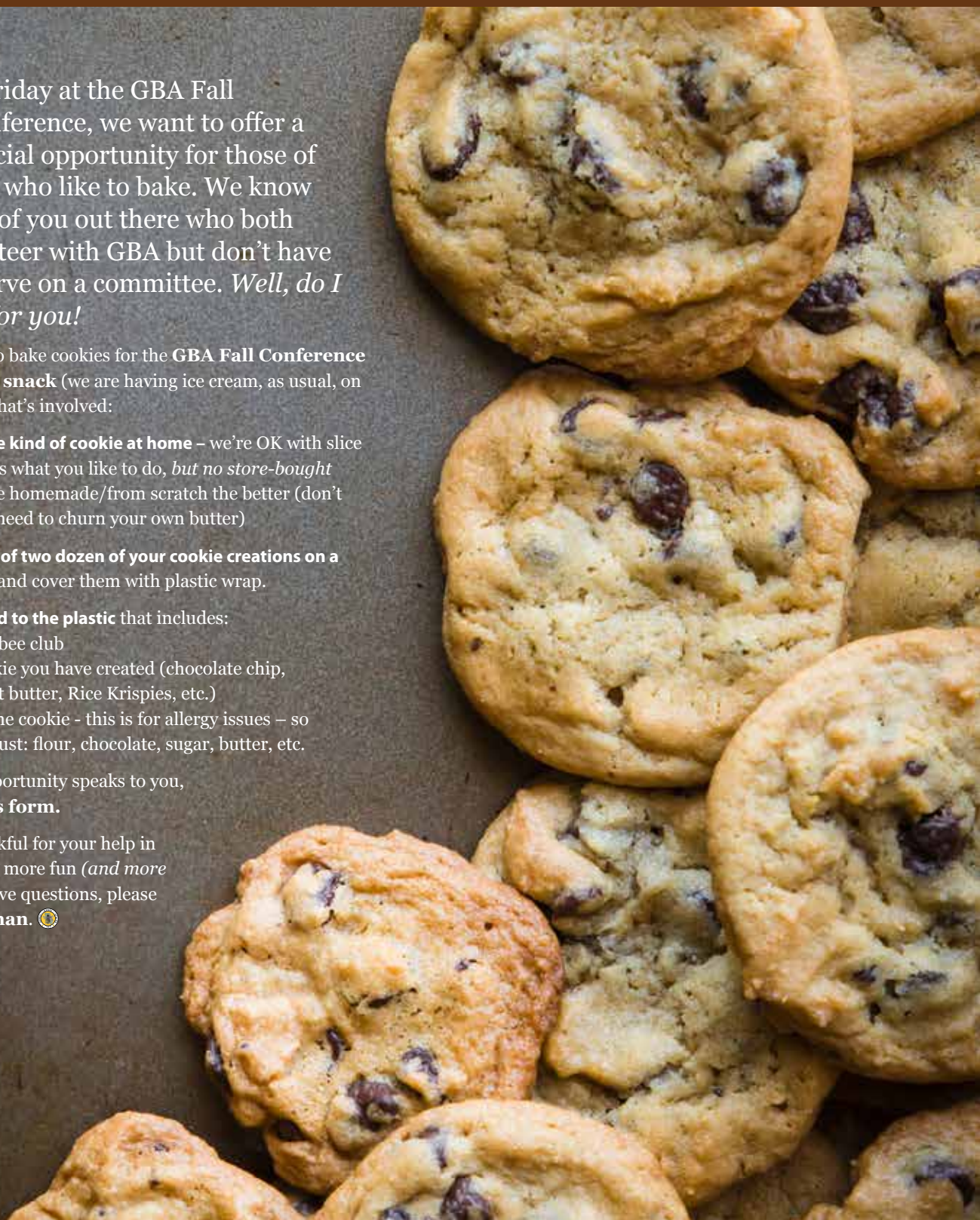
On Friday at the GBA Fall Conference, we want to offer a special opportunity for those of you who like to bake. We know there are lots of you out there who both want to volunteer with GBA but don't have the time to serve on a committee. *Well, do I have a treat for you!*

You can volunteer to bake cookies for the **GBA Fall Conference Friday afternoon snack** (we are having ice cream, as usual, on Saturday). Here's what's involved:

- 1. Bake your favorite kind of cookie at home** – we're OK with slice and bake, if that is what you like to do, *but no store-bought cookies*. The more homemade/from scratch the better (don't worry, you don't need to churn your own butter)
- 2. Bring a minimum of two dozen of your cookie creations on a disposable plate** and cover them with plastic wrap.
- 3. Tape an index card to the plastic** that includes:
 - Your name and bee club
 - The type of cookie you have created (chocolate chip, brownie, peanut butter, Rice Krispies, etc.)
 - Ingredients in the cookie - this is for allergy issues – so not the recipe, just: flour, chocolate, sugar, butter, etc.

If this volunteer opportunity speaks to you, **please fill out this form.**

GBA is forever thankful for your help in making the meeting more fun (*and more delicious*)! If you have questions, please **email Linda Tillman.** 





Plants for Bees: *Viburnum opulus*



By Kathy Bourn

I'm always on the lookout for bees on my plants during the summer dearth. It's nice to see them working hard to fend for themselves when there's so little food to choose from.

The assorted *Viburnum* shrubs and trees I have give the bees some resources during this lean time of year. My showy Snowball Bush (*Viburnum opulus*) blooms in July and is attractive to me and my bees.

The *Viburnaceae* family comprises five genera and more than 200 species. There are several species called snowball bush, but *Viburnum opulus* is the most common. You can watch the flowers start out green, then turn white, and after that become pink. The large round flowers, in clusters called corymbs, look very similar to a hydrangea. It is also known as the European cranberry bush because of its fruit that looks like cranberries.

This viburnum will grow anywhere between zones 2b to 8a. It can become 8-15 feet tall and 6-10 feet wide, so give it some room. It enjoys full sun but can handle part shade. It requires little maintenance once established, but it benefits from a good pruning of its flower heads. It is drought tolerant and relatively pest free.

Other favorite snowball bushes include Japanese (*Viburnum plicatum*), Fragrant (*Viburnum caricephalum*), Chinese (*Viburnum macrocephalum*), and Grand-flowering (*Viburnum plicatum*, "Grandiflorum").

There are a wide variety of viburnums that vary in color, size, and scent, so there is sure to be one that can fit in your garden and can give you and your bees a summer treat. 🐝





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Solar/Steam Wax Melter

by Kathy Bourn

I need to start by saying that everything I build is by definition a prototype. Most of my projects will eventually evolve from their original designs. My new solar/steam wax melter is no exception. I call it "The BAM" (Big Ass Melter).

This year, I vowed to collect all the comb that Bobby Chaisson removes from the hundreds of cutouts he does yearly for Georgia Bee Removal. I'm not talking about the nice wax most beekeepers get out of their cappings. This comb is full of dead brood, dead bees, oozing honey, and fermenting pollen – not to mention pieces of insulation, drywall, and shingles. I lay out these bags of comb on my trailer and the bees and I both clean it up the best we can, then I put it in the melter.



I quickly realized my little cooler-sized solar wax melter wasn't going to be up to the task of getting all the wax out of this comb. Do you remember the scene in the movie *Jaws* when Chief Brody says "You're gonna need a bigger boat"? Well, I needed a bigger melter!

My goal was to build it out of materials I already had on hand and to make sure it was bee tight. I started with a piece of glass in a frame and some heavy sheet metal I was given by a friend. The final melter has a large top chamber with a heavy metal screen suspended above the drain holes. The bottom chamber holds a tub for the wax to drain into.

I built it this past winter and put it to work at the start of the swarm season. But because it was such a cool spring and the chamber is deep, the solar part of this melter just didn't work well. Enter Marcus Pollard who showed me the power of steam. He suggested I add a wallpaper steamer to give this melter some turbo power. I bought a \$65 wallpaper steamer from Lowes and put a hole in the side of the melter between the screening and the drain holes. The steamer holds enough water to run for about two hours. Marcus has a system where he uses a metal garbage can as a steam-only melter and I've seen Jonathan Hayes' wax melter that is a steam-powered turkey fryer (See *Jonathan's*

melter in Club News on page 16).

The first batch of comb I put in filled a big Rubbermaid tub and it only took two hours to melt it all down, leaving the slumgum on the screen and the wax in the tub below. The screen lifts out and all that mess goes into the compost pile. The bees, especially bumble bees, continue to try to get something out of it.

As I said at the start, this is a prototype so there are a few things I plan on changing. Since adding the steam, the framed window tends to swell so I'm going to replace it with a solid piece of glass. I put casters on the BAM but I'd like to change those to wheels, so I can easily move it inside and use it throughout the winter.

The beauty of this system is that you can melt the comb anytime. It's great to be able to do it on a rainy or cold day. The wax still needs to be rendered a couple of times, but you can end up with some clean and pretty wax that didn't go into a landfill. 🐝



The Bee: A Kid's Guide To Getting Started in Beekeeping

Hudson Dunlap

Book review by *David Hinton*

A few weeks ago Dolly, my wife and fellow beekeeper, was asked by a neighbor to speak to a group of home-schooled children about beekeeping. While the children were of different ages and grades, most seemed to be in the 8-12-year-old range. She accepted the invitation because, after all, what's more important than introducing young eager minds to honey bees and beekeeping? It was a daunting challenge for someone not accustomed to being around children and not sure about what to say to children of different ages.

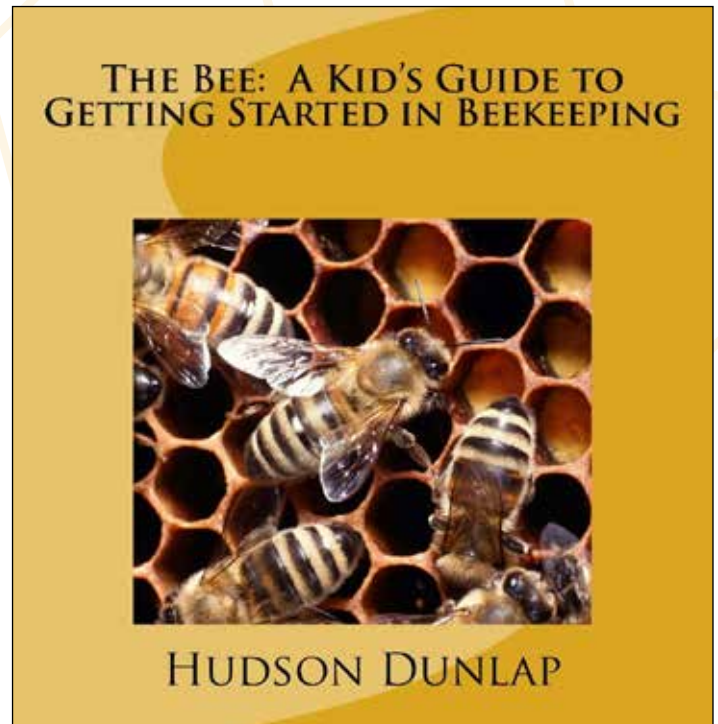
The natural curiosity of a group of intelligent boys and girls made it an enjoyable experience. Their questions were often unpredictable, such as "How fast do bees fly" and just as often quite logical, such as "How do bees make honey?" And for being such a good, attentive audience, each child got a reward at the end – a spoonful of delicious raw honey from our bees. For many of them, this was obviously their first taste of pure honey.

Probably everyone reading this will at some point in time find themselves in the same situation as Dolly. While it might not be an entire group of kids and maybe just a grandchild or two, you'll still be called on to talk with a child at his or her level about bees and beekeeping.

To prepare for that moment, I have just the book for you: *The Bee: A Kid's Guide to Getting Started in Beekeeping*. It's not only written for kids, it's written *by an eight-year-old!* To quote from the book's About the Author section: "Hudson Dunlap is an eight-year-old from Beebe, Arkansas. He is a new beekeeper and aspiring homesteader who wants to get more kids into beekeeping."

This is a great book to have for grandchildren to pick up, one that will definitely catch their attention. It's 43 pages in length and as you open it up, a page of copy always faces an illustration on the opposite page. It's easy for children to read because each page of copy usually contains just one or two sentences (only rarely a third) in large, bold type.

This young author shares a lot of information in one or two sentences. For example: "Worker bees looking for pollen can fly over three miles from their hive! When they find a good place to get pollen, they do a dance to tell the other bees how



to get there." Or, "The smoker is used to puff smoke onto the bees so the beekeeper can look at the hive," and on the following page is a photo close-up of a smoker. The next page reads "The smoke calms the bees" and is followed by a picture of a beekeeper smoking a hive. Hudson does a very good job of covering every important aspect of bees and beekeeping, from a description of each kind of bee to how a beekeeper works the hives.

The Bee: A Kid's Guide to Getting Started in Beekeeping is available for checkout from many libraries. If you are invited to speak to a group of kids about beekeeping, this book could be a helpful resource. 🐝

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 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**.



Share Your Club’s Upcoming Meeting Plans With Us!

We want to know (and share) what events and activities your local club has planned.

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. Thank you! 🍯



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Club News

Please help us by sending your meeting information updates through the Wufoo form (that's the who, what, when, where and why of your upcoming monthly meeting).

Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to gbanewsletters@gmail.com

Beekeepers of Gilmer County

Members of the Beekeepers of Gilmer County provided the residents of Manor Lake, an assisted living facility in Ellijay, with an educational day on the importance of the honey bee. Approximately 20 residents attended the seminar covering types of hives, different genera of bees, honey production, and all of the benefits that honey bees provide. A drawing was held at the end of the presentation with several in attendance leaving with honey bears full of honey from our club's local apiary.

Our August 14th meeting, held at the Ellijay Civic Center, will feature **Mary Cahill Roberts** (right), a certified Master Beekeeper and Honey Judge. She will tell us about bee nutrition and fat bodies in honey bees. Hope to see you there. 🍯



Henry County Beekeepers

The Henry County Beekeepers Club will be offering a **Beekeeping Short Course** to anyone wanting to become a beekeeper. The course cost is \$25.00 per person and children 17 and under are free. The date of the course is **Saturday, October 28, 2023**, and the location is The Georgia Farm Bureau, 117 Racetrack Road, McDonough, GA.



Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. and the program will start at 9:00 A.M. If you need additional information go to henrycountybeekeepers.club or contact Tom Bonnell at 678-983-7698. 🍯

Forsyth Beekeepers Club



We will be celebrating the Forsyth Beekeepers Club's **25th anniversary** on August 19th from 4:00 - 8:00 PM at the **Sawnee Mountain Preserve**. Everyone is invited to share this day with us. We will also hold our annual honey show with a Best in Show prize of \$500. The first place in each category is \$100. Honey show entries are accepted at 3:30 PM. 🍯

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, July 18th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program was titled Beekeeping Gadgets. Members Emily Heath, Doug Romans, Jonathan Hayes, Anita Curry and John Keys presented various beekeeping gadgets they had constructed, modified, or purchased. Some gadgets were more successful than others and there was good discussion among the members. Our August meeting will be Tuesday, August 15th. The program, *Preparing for a Honey Show*, will be presented by Anita Curry. Mentoring begins at 6:30 and the program at 7:00. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook www.hogba.org. 🍯



Jonathan Hayes (above left) with his wax melter made from a turkey fryer and wallpaper steamer. Doug Romans (above right) with his not-so-successful hive beetle trap.

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association's July meeting **Linda Tillman** and MABA Past President **Gail Dean** (right) co-presented a timely talk on preparing entries for a honey show. MABA's annual club picnic and honey show will be held on September 17th at the Galloway School. Their presentation included many valuable tips and tricks, and informative behind-the-scenes insights, designed to educate anyone interested in entering their hive products, whether as a first-time novice or seasoned honey show veteran.



Dr. Brock Harpur (right), Assistant Professor, Purdue University, will be MABA's featured speaker at their August 15th meeting. His presentation will be titled: *How To Incorporate Genomics Into Beekeeping*. The club meets at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church (3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta). During the mentor session, 6:30 p.m., **Julia Mahood** will lead a speaker training session for those interested in doing public speaking in the topic of bees. 🍯



Club News

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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 Bee Club

On Monday, June 19th, Vice President **Cory Momany** gave a presentation on products you can make after the honey harvest, such as wax candles, luminaries, and lip balms. After his demonstration on making wax candles, he turned us loose making luminaries and lip balm. It was a fun, hands-on experience!

On Monday, July 17, President **Joe Conti** educated OCB members about Pests, Parasites, Diseases, and Predators of Honey Bees. While many of the biological species of concern were covered, particular attention was given to American and European Foulbrood (AFB and EFB). The outward signs on a frame could resemble Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS) caused by Varroa. Joe gave tips on how to make the distinction, but since a colony can have both EFB and PMS, many times it is difficult to definitively identify the causative organism of the diseased colony. 🐝



(Above, clockwise) Oglethorpe County Bee Club Vice President Cory Momany; club members try their hands at making wax candles, luminaries, and lip balms. Oglethorpe County Bee Club President Joe Conti educated OCB members about Pests, Parasites, Diseases, and Predators of Honey Bees including European Foulbrood and Parasitic Mite Syndrome.

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

The July 2023 Sowega Beekeepers **Family HoneyBee Festival** was a buzzing success thanks to our many club members and community volunteers. More than 140 parents, grandparents, and kids participated in a day of honeybee fun. **Stan Okon**, club vice president, shared bee facts and invited the kids to a honey tasting. After the educational session, the entire group rotated through four STEM stations that reinforced what was learned. Kids enjoyed potting pollinator plants, building a felt bee, simulating pollination and participated in a "What's Happening in the Hive" skit. Thanks especially to GBA and local sponsors for supporting this event. 🐝



Club Meetings*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	Episcopal Church Parrish Hall, 1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474	1st Monday, 6pm	Aug. 7	Meeting & Pot Luck Supper	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 Christian Academy 775 Dacula Road, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Aug. 8	Even More Plants That Will Kill The Summer Dearth – Jimmy Gatt	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, GA	2nd Monday, 6:30pm		Bee Nutrition And Fat Bodies In Honey Bees – Mary Cahill Roberts	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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	Aug. 14	Monitoring and Modeling Varroa in Your Hives – Tom Rearick	cowetabeekeepersassociation@gmail.com	Coweta
Dunwoody Beekeepers	Dunwoody Nature Center 5100 N. Peachtree Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338	1st Thursday, 6:30pm	Aug. 3	Identifying Local Bees, Flies, Wasps (as well as other information needed to pass the Journeyman exam) – Master Beekeeper Bobby Chaisson. Visitors welcome!	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, 7pm			eastmetrobees@gmail.com	Rockdale
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers	Athens-Clarke County Extension 275 Cleveland Rd Bogart, GA 30622	1st Monday, 7pm		National Honey Bee Day Picnic with Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	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	Aug. 19	Products of the Hive Workshop	etowahriverbeekeepers@gmail.com	Cherokee
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	University of North GA 300 Aquatic Circle, Cumming, GA 30040	4th Thursday, 6:30pm	Aug. 19	Forsyth Beekeepers 25th Birthday Party Public Event 10 am - 2 pm. Honey Show 4 - 8 pm.	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)	Aug. 15	Preparing for a Honey Show – Anita Curry	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Aug. 8	Preparing Your Hives For Winter	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* *(cont'd)*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake 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, 6:30pm	Aug. 3	Club Picnic and Best Tasting Honey Competition at the Hartwell First Methodist Church, 6:30 pm	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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)	Aug. 15	How To Incorporate Genomics Into Bee Keeping – Dr. Brock Harpur, Purdue University	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	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, 6:30pm			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, 5:30pm			secretary@oabees.com	Bulloch
Oglethorpe County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Building 925 Athens Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	3rd Monday, 7pm	Aug. 19	National Honey Bee Day Picnic with Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association at Clarke County Extension, Cleveland Road	ocbcbclubcommunications@gmail.com	Oglethorpe
Paulding County Beekeepers Association	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
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	Aug. 10	GBA Membership Benefits – Emily Heath, GBA Southwest Georgia District Board Officer	sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	3rd Monday, 7pm	Aug. 21	Using 3-D Printers as a Beekeeping Tool – Ryon Forsman; Tara Beekeepers Fall Short Course for New Beekeepers Nov. 4, 2023, 8:30am - 4pm, contact: tarabeekeepers@gmail.com	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	Aug. 14	Beekeeping Business Plan: Looking Ahead At A Year In The Beeyard – Bob Binnie	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.)	Aug. 17	Annual Club Honey Show	bjpete7731@att.net	Douglas



Spilling *The* Honey

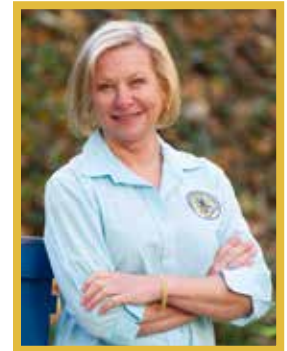
SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year's fall GBA conference marks a new beginning for us as an organization. We are proudly helping to host the University of Georgia Master Beekeepers program. To take part, you must **sign up for our fall conference** and indicate which level of testing you are choosing to attend.

GBA is thriving, growing, and improving in our efforts and abilities to help beekeepers all over the state. We are so grateful to our sponsors who provide financial help to our organization and our vendors who will share their knowledge and wares. Their support allows us to bring you the great conferences that we offer twice a year. Thanks to the following sponsors of our 2023 Fall Conference: **Carden & Associates Insurance, Mann Lake Bee & Ag Supply, Mellow Bear Delta-8 Honey, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company, Rossman Apiaries and Savannah Bee Company.** Please let these sponsors know how we appreciate them by ordering from them ahead of the September 22, 2023 conference! You can sign up for the September meeting here before the late registration goes into effect on September 16. *We look forward to seeing everyone!* 🍯



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

- *Gina*



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5-19**

BEE ON THE LOOKOUT:

Yellow Legged Hornets Found in Georgia

By Jennifer Berry



On August 9th, USDA APHIS confirmed that the yellow-legged hornet (YLH), *Vespa velutina*, a non-native species, was discovered in Georgia. This is the first time the YLH has been found in the US and, to date, there have been four confirmed reports in four different locations in the area surrounding Savannah, GA. Due to the combined efforts of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Savannah Bee Company, and the USDA APHIS, the hornets were tracked leaving the area around the Savannah Bee Company. The swift actions of those involved along with area homeowners led to the discovery of the nest on August 18th.

As you can see from the red arrow in the photo (right), it was 85 feet up in a tree. It was also a very large nest – much larger than our native bald-faced hornet nests, which look very similar. Typically, this time of year a bald-faced hornet nest will have 400 to 600 individuals. A YLH nest can have 10 times that amount, making them much more dangerous to the public and our bees.

On the night of August 23rd, professionals in the pest control and tree industry climbed the tree and applied an insecticide into the nest. Once the nest was fully saturated, the limb was cut and the nest fell to the ground. The pressure from the application along with the fall destroyed part of the nest. Fortunately, no one was stung, and it is believed that all the hornets were destroyed that evening.

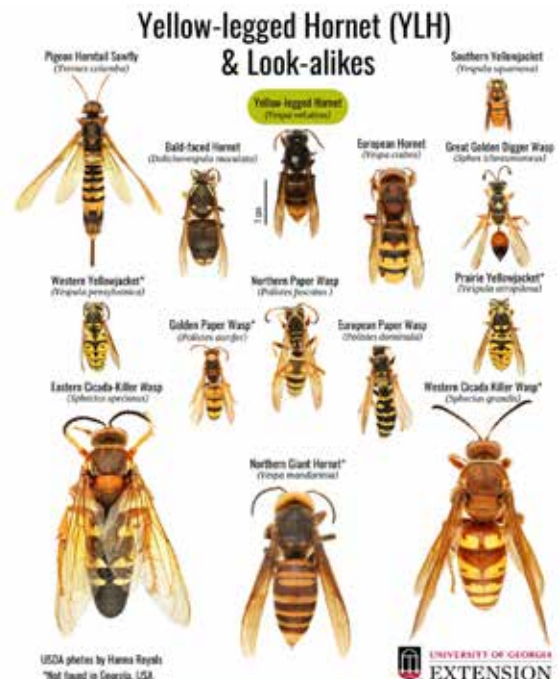
On August 25th, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper gave a brief press conference explaining how the nest was detected and destroyed. Only about 1/3 of the nest is remaining. The Commissioner stressed that though they believe this was the only nest, they will remain vigilant and continue to monitor the area until they know for certain that the YLH has been eradicated from Georgia. Fortunately, the locations of all four confirmed cases of the YLH were within flying distance of the nest. Foraging yellow-legged hornets fly approximately 1.5 miles from the nest and the locations where the YLHs were found are within this area.

The Commissioner asked beekeepers to continue to monitor their hives and for the public to be on the lookout for YLHs. If anyone believes they have seen an individual or a nest, they can contact the Department of Agriculture and **fill out this form**. Or **for more information go to the UGA Bee Lab's website**.

As stated by the Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, finding this nest is a huge win for Georgia Agriculture and an important step in protecting our honey bee and agricultural industry.

We at the UGA bee lab stress to beekeepers to please listen to the information coming from reputable sources (i.e., not fly-by-night YouTube channels looking to make names for themselves). Due to the sensational stories several years ago surrounding the Asian Giant Hornet – aka “murder hornet” – we want to make sure correct information is being disseminated. The internet is already being bombarded by folks giving advice on how to trap

or kill YLHs. If you suspect YLHs are in your area or apiary, it is important that the team from the Department of Agriculture is given a chance to monitor and track them back to their nest. If there are additional nests, killing one hornet is not going to help eradicate the YLH from Georgia. Nests need to be located and destroyed, not just individuals. If you think you have seen a YLH, please submit a photo. And, as always, exercise caution when dealing with any stinging insect. 🐝





How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman

Gail Dean

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia **Save The Honey Bee** License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.





FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

Funding SOWEGA Meeting Speakers

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club members benefit from our “2023 Program of Speakers.” Funds provided by GBA and the License Plate Grant have allowed our members to hear and engage with industry experts from around the state. SOWEGA Beekeepers Club Board and its members appreciate the support GBA provides.

Our club is experiencing growth in membership as it has implemented a new monthly meeting format. Each monthly 2nd Thursday meeting begins with a short mini bee school topic for beginners, such as lighting a smoker, sugar feeding, or hive inspections. The June topic was the importance of documenting what you see in your hive. After members hear from informative speakers, we close our meeting with a pollinator plant giveaway. The SOWEGA Club encourages members to make the meetings a family event – kids enjoy meeting and having a picture made with the club bee mascot, Buzzee. 🐝



LIABILITY INSURANCE

TWO QUESTIONS, ONE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROBLEM

By Brutz English

I get these two questions a lot: 1) Can I get liability insurance for my beekeeping hobby? And 2) I wonder if my homeowner’s insurance will cover any liability related to my beekeeping hobby? The answers to these questions (in order) are “absolutely” and “maybe, but probably not.” There are many companies out there that sell liability insurance to beekeepers. Google “beekeeping insurance” and you’ll find them.

The first question is easy and usually doesn’t cause most people any trouble. The second question is a bit more touchy, though. Some years ago, a good friend of mine had these same questions. They reached out to their homeowner’s insurance company to get the answer. The response from this particular insurer was twofold: 1) “No, we don’t cover that,” and 2) “We had no idea you had honeybees on the property, and because of that we are canceling your existing coverage.” There was no discussing or negotiating

the issue with this particular insurance company. These were not the answers or outcomes my friend had anticipated. Fortunately, my friend was able to find other coverage in relatively short order, but the experience was not a pleasant one.



If you have these same questions or similar ones, try the internet first. Ask around at your local bee club, and see what other beekeepers in your community have already discovered. Before you call your own homeowner’s insurer, call some other insurance companies and see what they have to say about it.

Call your own insurer last, especially if you have no idea how they are going to respond. A clever idea might also be to have someone else call your insurer posing as a prospective customer in your neighborhood. Let your friend do the innocent inquiry without you having to put your coverage in jeopardy. There is insurance coverage out there. You just have to be smart about how you go looking for it. 🐝



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2023 Fall Conference Keynote Speakers



BROCK HARPUR is an Assistant Professor in the Entomology Department of Purdue. Brock arrived at Purdue after completing a National Science and Engineering Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Donnelley Centre, the University of Toronto with Ben Blencowe. His work explores the evolution and genetics of honey bees. Brock completed his Ph.D. on population genomics of honey bees at York University with Amro Zayed as an Elia Research Scholar. He's been a beekeeper for 15 years.

KEYNOTE #1: HISTORY AND LESSONS ON HONEY BEE GENETICS THROUGH THE EYES OF A DRONE – Honey bee genetics can be complicated but it's important for you to understand it to keep your apiary healthy. Learn the basics of honey bee genetics using both historical and new research. We will outline how inheritance occurs in bees and how modern genetic techniques can be used to understand your bees better.

KEYNOTE #6: HONEY BEE GENETICS OF THE U.S. WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GEORGIA – Learn where honey bees in the United States come from and what that means for beekeepers and bee breeders. This talk will focus on historical research and bring in new genomic data from around the country.



DR. DEWEY M. CARON is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture, Oregon State University. Now retired, he remains active in bee education, writing and teaching all over the world. He is the author of many books, including *Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping*, and *The Complete Bee Handbook*.

KEYNOTE #2: WHAT SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPERS ARE DOING TO COMBAT VARROA – How to get ahead and stay ahead of the curve of annual varroa growth. Tools for Varroa Management and Bee MD can help guide you toward reducing losses. Fighting the mite smarter not harder. How to enlist the bees and integrate a variety of weapons dependent upon our beekeeping objectives and philosophy.

KEYNOTE #7: DEFENSIVE BEES – Eventually we will have a colony that is defensive. What happened to that gentle colony we started with? Was it something we did? Could it be mites or just big colonies or just lack of experience? Diagnosing and dealing with defensive bees.



DR. ISAAC WEINBERG received his PhD in Biology in May of 2023 at Tufts University, where he studied how honey bees respond to chronic temperature stress in their hives. He now works at Dalan Animal Health, where he helps to develop vaccines to treat diseases that affect honey bee colonies.

KEYNOTE #3: COMB-REORGANIZATION IN RESPONSE TO TEMPERATURE STRESS IN HONEY BEE COLONIES – This talk will present findings from three field experiments which provide evidence that when exposed to long-term temperature stress, honey bees rearrange where they store brood, honey, nectar, and pollen within their hives. In addition, we will speculate on mechanisms that may be driving the reorganization of comb stores.



2023 Fall Conference Keynote Speakers



THERESA MARTIN has 23 colonies in southeastern Kentucky. She focuses on keeping healthy, alive bees by using more natural practices. She is a Cornell Master Beekeeper, President of the Whitley County Beekeepers Association and a Kentucky State Beekeepers Association board member.

KEYNOTE #4: DEAD BEES DON'T MAKE HONEY: 10 TIPS FOR HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE BEES

- In her five years of beekeeping with now 23 colonies, Theresa has never had a colony die or abscond! Theresa shares her sustainable beekeeping practices. By modeling what the bees teach us about balancing bee health with production, your bees can make more honey in the long run and bring more enjoyment and profit to you, the beekeeper.



DR. LEWIS BARTLETT is a research faculty professor at the University of Georgia with a mandate to work on Pollinator Health. He has been beekeeping for over 11 years since he started his training in Yorkshire, England, where he was born. He specialises in the biology of parasites and infectious diseases and the health of honey bees. Lewis has trained in York, Cambridge, Exeter, and Falmouth in the UK and in San Francisco California, Athens & Atlanta in GA while in America. His work started in understanding what drives outbreaks of honeybee diseases and has grown to cover everything from nutrition to pesticides in determining the health of honey bees.

KEYNOTE #5: KNOWING YOUR BEE LAB: 2023 UPDATES ON THE YELLOW LEGGED HORNET AND BEE RESEARCH IN GEORGIA*

- The UGA Bee Lab has had a busy year! We're working on the new yellow legged hornet presence in Georgia, pest control and disease vaccination, and microplastics and honey quality. In this session we'll update you on what your bee lab has been up to, what funding is coming in, how GBA is helping, and celebrate that Georgia is a rising star amongst honey bee co-operative research in the USA.

**This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licenses.*



DR. JORG MAYER grew up in Germany where he received his primary education. After he received his doctoral degree from the University of Budapest/Hungary, he studied in the US, Papua New Guinea, and the Royal veterinary College in London. Dr. Mayer is currently is a Full Professor in Zoological Medicine at UGA. He lectures regularly at large national and international conferences on all aspects of exotic animal medicine including honey bee medicine. He has published numerous scientific articles and books and is recognized as an outstanding speaker in the field of exotic mammal health.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER TALK: COMPARING THE ART OF BEEKEEPING TO MICRO FARMING

KEYNOTE #8: APITHERAPY STUDIES AT THE UGA VET SCHOOL

- While Apitherapy or the use of honey bee byproducts is not a novel idea and has been used for thousands of years in human medicine, very little is known about the mechanisms of actions. This is most likely the reason why this exciting field in medicine is often not very well accepted in western medicine and often considered "quackery." This lecture aims to provide more insight into the variety of mechanisms on how honey, venom and propolis can have beneficial effects, with a few examples on how the apitherapy is used in animal patients and what kind of research is conducted at UGA in this field.



THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Certified/Journeyman/Master testing takes place in the Deal building. Testing information and schedule are available online at gabeekeeping.com

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
2:00 - 6:00	Honey Show entries accepted		Lanier
4:30 - 6:00	GBA Board Meeting		Lyman

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:15 - 9:00	Honey Show entries accepted		Lanier
8:00	Registration opens		
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Remarks	Gina Gallucci, GBA President	Ballroom
9:15 - 10:00	Keynote 1: History And Lessons On Honey Bee Genetics Through The Eyes Of A Drone	Brock Harpur	Ballroom
10:00 - 10:45	Keynote 2: What Successful Beekeepers Are Doing To Combat Varroa	Dewey Caron	Ballroom
10:45 - 11:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
	MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS A		
11:00 - 11:45	Bee Experience On The Airbnb Worldwide Platform	Ed Morgan, Jr.	Lyman
	Managing Beekeeping Equipment	David Hollomon	Walton
	The Buzz Around Golf	Scott Griffith	Few
	Bee-ginner's Track: Basic Bee Biology	Jennifer Berry	Gwinnett
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch		
1:15 - 2:00	Keynote 3: Comb-Reorganization In Response To Temperature Stress In Honey Bee Colonies	Isaac Weinberg	Ballroom
2:00-2:30	Break / Visit Vendors		
	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS B		
2:45 - 3:30	Bee Experience On The Airbnb Worldwide Platform	Ed Morgan, Jr.	Lyman
	Managing Beekeeping Equipment	David Hollomon	Walton
	The Buzz Around Golf	Scott Griffith	Few
	Bee-ginner's Track: Honey Bee Pests & Diseases	Claressa Lucas	Gwinnett
3:30 - 4:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
4:00 - 4:45	Keynote 4: Dead Bees Don't Make Honey: 10 Tips For Healthy Productive Bees	Theresa Martin	Ballroom
5:30 - 6:00	Beer & Wine Social		Ballroom
6:00 - 8:00	Dinner / Talk: Comparing The Art Of Beekeeping To Micro Farming (Beekeeper of the Year, Honey Show awards, and new Journeyman and Master beekeepers presented after the speaker)	Jorg Mayer	Ballroom

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:30	Registration		
7:30 - 8:30	President's Breakfast (<i>current club presidents only</i>)	Eric Malcom, BIP	Ballroom
8:30 - 8:45	Election / Visit Vendors		
8:45 - 9:45	GBA Business Meeting & Beekeeper of the Year Announcement		Ballroom
9:45 - 10:45	Keynote 5: Knowing Your Bee Lab: 2023 Updates On The Yellow Legged Hornet And Bee Research In Georgia*	Lewis Bartlett	Ballroom
10:45 - 11:15	Break / Visit Vendors		
	MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS C		
11:15 - 12:00	Better Beekeeping Using Broodminder T2SM Temperature Sensors	Theresa Martin	Lyman
	Tips and Tricks for Running a Successful Bee Club	Bobby Chaisson	Few
	License Plate Grants Demystified	Julia Mahood	Walton
	Bee-ginner's Track: A Year in the Apiary	Mary Cahill Roberts	Gwinnett
	Bee Structural Removal Licensing Requirements	GA Dept. of Agriculture Staff	Ballroom
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch		
12:45	Announcement of election results		
1:00 - 1:45	Keynote 6: Honey Bee Genetics Of The U.S. With Special Emphasis On Georgia	Brock Harpur	Ballroom
1:45 - 2:30	Keynote 7: Defensive Bees	Dewey Caron	Ballroom
2:30 - 3:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS D		
3:00-3:45	Better Beekeeping Using Broodminder T2SM Temperature Sensors	Theresa Martin	Lyman
	Tips and Tricks for Running a Successful Bee Club	Bobby Chaisson	Few
	Arts and Crafts Categories at the Honey Show	Brutz English	Walton
	Bee-ginner's Track: Mistakes New Beekeepers Make	Deb DeWitt	Gwinnett
	Now That You're Licensed For Honey Bee Removals, What's Next?	GA Dept. of Agriculture Staff	Ballroom
3:45 - 4:00	Break		
4:00 - 4:45	Keynote 8: Apitherapy Studies at the UGA Vet School	Jorg Mayer	Ballroom
4:45 - 5:00	Raffle Drawings		Ballroom
5:00	Conference Concludes		

SEPT. 22ND: BREAKOUT TALKS (SESSIONS A & B)

LYMAN

BEE EXPERIENCE ON THE AIRBNB

WORLDWIDE PLATFORM – Hosting Bee Experiences is a great way to add to your beekeeping income and introduce people to the fascinating world of honey bees.

Edward Morgan, Jr. is a Certified Beekeeper and an active board member of Metro-Atlanta Beekeepers Association (MABA). He currently works as a full time beekeeper doing Bee Experiences on the Airbnb platform, licensed bee removals and managing more than one hundred beehives within an 80-mile radius of metro Atlanta.



WALTON

MANAGING BEEKEEPING

EQUIPMENT – One thing that most beekeepers do not enjoy is managing the ever growing volume of equipment that we all end up with. David will share storage and organization options that have worked for other beekeepers in a variety of situations.

David Hollomon is a Georgia Master Beekeeper. He volunteers at Arrendale State Prison's beekeeping program. He is an active member of the Tri-county Bee Club. David has several hobbies and is currently studying bladesmithing and leather work.



FEW

THE BUZZ AROUND GOLF

– Why golf courses are great habitats for honey bees and pollinators in general.

Scott Griffith has been in the golf course maintenance business for 25 years and serves as the Golf Course Superintendent/Director of Agronomy UGA. He led the effort of the UGA Golf Course being certified as a cooperative sanctuary through Audubon International.



BEE-GINNER'S TRACK

These talks are geared for new beekeepers who are still gaining foundational knowledge and building their beekeeping practice. (Beginner's Track sessions do not repeat.)

GWINNETT

BASIC BEE BIOLOGY

(morning session A)

Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Bee Program for more than 23 years. She has spent decades researching ways to control Varroa destructor and ways to keep bees healthy and alive. Her latest research has involved what best to plant in non traditional and traditional landscapes to enhance pollinator populations and diversity.



GWINNETT

HONEY BEE PESTS AND

DISEASES (afternoon session B)

Claressa Lucas has been an avid backyard beekeeper since 2007. The current Treasurer of MABA, and a Georgia Journeyman Beekeeper, she is also the on-call swarm catcher for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Atlanta campuses and helps to promote pollinator friendly practices in the federal built environment.



See color-coded map for room locations.



SEPT. 23RD: BREAKOUT TALKS (SESSIONS C & D)

LYMAN HALL

BETTER BEEKEEPING USING

BROODMINDER T2SM TEMPERATURE SENSORS

– "Precision beekeeping" uses technology that improves decision making and revolutionizes beekeeping decisions to enable healthier, more productive colonies. In this presentation, Theresa shares five real life examples and the improved outcomes enabled by Broodminder T2SM temperature sensors.

Theresa Martin has 23 colonies in southeastern Kentucky. She focuses on keeping healthy, alive bees by using more natural practices. She is a Cornell Master Beekeeper, President of the Whitley County Beekeepers Association and a Kentucky State Beekeepers Association board member.



FEW

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR RUNNING

A SUCCESSFUL BEE CLUB – If you are in a club leadership position, this is the talk for you. Bobby will share leadership strategies and programming ideas to help get your local club to the next level.

Bobby Chaisson is a Georgia Master Beekeeper who has over 15 years experience with bees all over the southeast as part of his work for Georgia Bee Removal. He is the President of Tri County Beekeepers and a GBA Director. Bobby was the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2019.



WALTON

LICENSE PLATE GRANTS

DEMYSTIFIED – How to best apply for license plate grants for your club or project, with Q and A. (NOTE: Morning Session C only; does not repeat)

Julia Mahood is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and the 2018 Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. She teaches beekeeping at Arrendale State prison and created a citizen science drone mapping project at mapmydca.com.



WALTON

ARTS AND CRAFTS CATEGORIES AT

THE HONEY SHOW – Learn from a senior honey judge what the ins and outs are of preparing entries for the arts and crafts categories in honey shows. (NOTE: Afternoon Session D only)

Brutz English is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. He is in charge of the Honey Judge program at the YHBI. A long time GBA director, Brutz was the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2017.



BEE-GINNER'S TRACK

These talks are geared for new beekeepers who are still gaining foundational knowledge and building their beekeeping practice. (Beginner's Track sessions do not repeat.)

GWINNETT

A YEAR IN THE APIARY

(morning session C)

Mary Cahill Roberts is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and Senior Honey Judge. She is the owner/manager of Swarm Chasers Apiaries, where she maintains 1-15 hives throughout the season through the Certified Naturally grown method. She is a Past President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association and the Tara Beekeepers Association.



GWINNETT

MISTAKES NEW BEEKEEPERS MAKE

(afternoon session D)

Deb DeWitt fell in love with bees in 2018. A Master Beekeeper, she keeps bees at her home in downtown Atlanta, as well as in Chattahoochee Hills, Mt Arabia, and Brevard NC, and manages the Tara Beekeepers' teaching apiary in Decatur, where she also teaches a beekeeping class to high school students. Deb is Vice President of Tara Beekeepers, and a MABA board member.



BALLROOM

BEE STRUCTURAL REMOVAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

– By Georgia Law you must obtain a license to do bee removals from structures. This session will cover what is involved in obtaining this license. (NOTE: Morning session C only; does not repeat)

Presented by Georgia Department of Agriculture Structural Pest Control Division Staff

BALLROOM

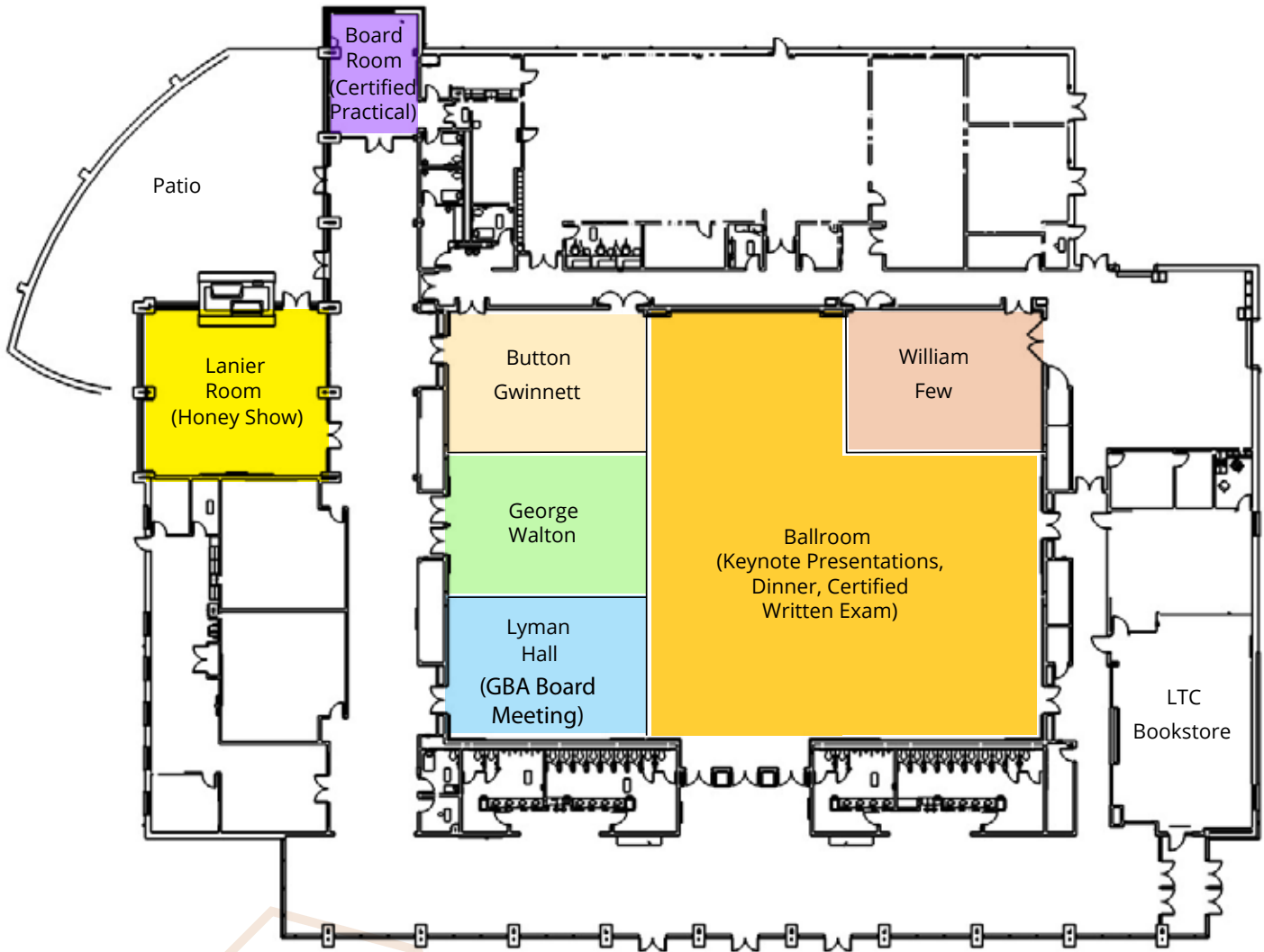
NOW THAT YOU'RE LICENSED FOR HONEY BEE

REMOVALS, WHAT'S NEXT? – An update on the new certification program and what's involved to keep your license current. (NOTE: Afternoon Session D only)

Presented by Georgia Department of Agriculture Structural Pest Control Division Staff



RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER



OFFICERS

- President**
Gina Gallucci
- Vice President**
Julia Mahood
- Secretary**
Mark Shields
- Treasurer**
Luke Ellerman

Newsletter Editors

Kathy Bourn & Peter Helfrich

Past President

Linda Tillman

Webmaster

Jonathan Hayes

DIRECTORS

- Bobby Chaisson
- Brutz English
- Emily Heath
- Cindy Hodges
- Karen Palmer
- Monica Sheppard

Ex-Officio Director

Jennifer Berry

gabeeking.com



SPEAKER PREVIEW:

MEET DEWEY CARON, PHD

A LIFELONG PASSION FOR BEE BIOLOGY

By *Linda Tillman*

As a youngster, Dewey Caron earned a Boy Scout merit badge in beekeeping. Now in his retirement years, he is just as passionate and committed to the honey bee as he was years ago. He has always been an ecologist, interested in the relationships of organisms to their environment. When Dewey was completing a master's degree in biology, he began to look for a PhD program. When Cornell offered him the chance to work with stream insects or honey bees, he accepted with enthusiasm. Stream inhabiting insects allow an ecologist to understand more about the stream environment, whereas honey bees help explain the terrestrial world around us.

At Cornell, Dewey had the chance to study with the internationally known beekeeping professor, Roger Morse. Morse introduced him to working with the honey bee. Dewey really liked this because he could study populations. Honey bees offered him a chance to keep insects alive while he studied them. So for over 50 years, Dewey has continued to learn about bees and to feed his passion for them.

When asked what is his favorite thing about the honey bee, Dewey said, "It's like real estate where they say what matters is location, location, location. For the honey bee, I think it's biology, biology, biology."

Along the way, Dewey has written numerous books about beekeeping. His favorite publication is his book with Larry Conner, titled *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, now in its third edition. He even wrote another book during the pandemic over a two month period. The book is titled: *The Complete Bee Handbook*.

When he was at the University of Delaware where he spent 29 years, he was a researcher but his favorite part was cooperative extension – working with people. He always wanted both to do research and to spend hands-on time with people committed to bees. He describes himself as a lifelong bee learner. "When I finally learn it all," he said, "I'll give it up and polish rocks or do something else, but I'm fairly certain that time will not come."

While at Delaware, Dewey traveled to Panama and helped to set up a graduate program there as part of a cooperative agreement between the sister universities. He loved working with the Panamanian students who had not had many opportunities to work in a hive with an experienced beekeeper. Dewey loved that kind of hands-on teaching with them as well as the biology part. "They were like sponges," he said and this underlined for him how much he enjoyed working with students directly in the hives.


He now lives in Oregon, where his two sons and daughter are. He really wanted to be near his grandkids – five in all. He and his

daughter have hives together in Portland. Their bees are on land owned by a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and their bees pollinate the farm's crops, especially the cucurbits.

When he moved to Oregon, he initially volunteered with the Xerces Society. With a courtesy appointment at Oregon State University, he has been very involved in developing a Master Beekeeping program for Oregon. He was part of the committee which defined the Master Beekeeper protocols. They have three levels of beekeeping certification in Oregon. They are supported in part by Oregon State as well as the Oregon Extension Services, which provide them with material and money. There are now several hundred people who are working their way through certification levels. In addition to the three levels of certification, they also offer a "Getting Started" level which is open to people who are interested in bees but don't keep bees (yet!).

At the GBA Fall Conference, Dewey will talk about defensive bees, sharing with us some of the skills he developed while working with Africanized bees in Central America. He will also share his passion for the biology of the bee when he talks to us about the infamous varroa mite. He hopes when he gives a talk to "Share a little of the biology." He also hopes that his audience will "find resources for further learning" and that he can "impart some of my enthusiasm for bees to the people who hear me."

Dewey said, "I find bees fascinating and I have for all time."

You will be well aware of his passion and enthusiasm when you hear him speak at the GBA Fall Conference. **To register, click here.** 





CONFERENCE PREVIEW: GBA HONEY & ARTISAN SHOW

Whether it's beeswax or beverages, honey cake or cut comb honey, photography or poetry, it's time to get it together for the spectacular GBA Fall Honey and Artisan Show. Brutz English and the outstanding GBA honey and artisan show judges and secretaries are ready to take your entries and hand out up to \$13,000 in prize money.

The best advice when entering the show is to **READ THE RULES**. Then, when you're done doing that... **READ THE RULES AGAIN**. Here is [a link to the rules](#).

There is no exhibit fee, but all entries must be submitted by current GBA members who are registered for and attending the

GBA Fall Conference. You can submit your entries on Thursday, September 21 between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Friday, September 22 between 7:15 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. No exhibits are accepted after the deadline and the judging will start at 9:15 on Friday.

The honey show awards and prize money will be presented after the speaker at the conference's Friday night dinner.

All the entries will remain in the show area for attendees to view until 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 23. All exhibits must be picked up on Saturday between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. If not picked up, entries will be disposed of by the honey show committee. 🐝





CONFERENCE PREVIEW: SPONSORS & VENDORS

The upcoming Fall GBA Conference is set to be a buzzing event, thanks to the support of various sponsors and vendors. These companies play a crucial role in the success of the conference by providing their expertise and products to beekeepers and enthusiasts. Let's take a look at some of the sponsors and vendors who will be present:

- Rossman Bees
- Pigeon Mountain Trading Company
- Mann Lake Bee & AG Supply
- Mellow Bear Honey
- Bee Club Sales
- Miller Bee Supply
- EZPZ Beekeeping Equipment
- NOD Apiary Products Ltd.
- Tri-Bee
- BIP
- UGA Bee Lab
- Service B Company
- Buzz Beekeeping Supplies
- Dances With Bees
- Lanier Bee Barn
- Wicwas Press LLC
- Millerbees Mfg.
- Better Bee
- Dalan Animal Health

These sponsors and vendors bring a wide range of products and services to the conference, catering to the diverse needs of beekeepers. From beekeeping equipment and supplies to honey and other bee-related products, attendees can expect to find everything they need to support their beekeeping endeavors.

The Fall GBA Conference promises to be an exciting and informative event, thanks to the participation of these sponsors and vendors. Whether you're a seasoned beekeeper or just

starting out, make sure to visit their booths and take advantage of the knowledge and resources they have to offer.

So mark your calendars and get ready to explore the world of beekeeping at the Fall GBA Conference. With the support of these sponsors and vendors, it's bound to be an unforgettable experience for all attendees. 🐝



SPONSORED BY





GBA ELECTIONS: GBA POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

This year the GBA has five elected positions open for nominations. The open positions are **Secretary, Treasurer, Northwest Director, Southeast Director, and Southwest Director**. The term of office for all elected officers is two years. Consecutive terms of service are permitted for these positions.

These positions are at the heart of what makes the GBA the great association it is. If you would like to nominate yourself or a GBA member, please notify the chair of the election committee, Bobby Chaisson, at northeastdirector@gabeekeeping.com. The nominees are voted on by the GBA membership at the fall conference in September.


The GBA Secretary has the duty of keeping a complete record of all meetings. A copy of the minutes is then distributed to all members of the Board of Directors. The Secretary is also tasked with writing letters as directed by the President and/or the Board of Directors.

The GBA Treasurer has the duty of keeping a full and accurate account of all financial transactions. They must make these accounts available to the President at all times. The Treasurer

is the legal custodian of all GBA funds. He or she keeps track of all donations to GBA. Funds are then disbursed according to the guidelines for the projects and with the approval of the Vice President. The Treasurer pays all the expenses, including taxes, and furnishes the accounts to the Vice President each quarter for review.

The GBA Directors are on the Board of Directors and represent the membership to the Board. Directors serve on the Nominations and Elections committee. Two members sit on the committee in the years in which they are not running for election. Directors are liaisons to the local clubs in their district. Contact should be made with assigned local clubs no less than quarterly.


To date, the nominees for GBA positions are:

- **Mark Shields** for Secretary
- **Drew Harvey** for Treasurer
- **Stephanie Scott** for Southeast Director
- **Emily Heath** for Southwest Director
- **Ray Jones** for Northwest Director 

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: YOU CAN MAKE IT **EVEN BETTER**

One way to make the fall GBA conference better for you and your beekeeping friends is to volunteer. When you help out, you become part of the action and you contribute to the success of the conference. Our conferences, and everything GBA does, are all powered by folks who are willing to freely put in their time, ability and effort for the benefit of all.

If you would like to be part of the action this fall, just volunteer and contribute to making our 2023 fall conference better.

Contact **Kathy Bourn**, the GBA volunteer coordinator, at kathleenbourn@gmail.com. She'll be in touch with you ahead of the conference to let you know where your help is needed. 





GBA BYLAWS REWRITE: CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT FALL CONFERENCE

By Jonathan Hayes

I would like to start by thanking GBA President Gina Gallucci for the opportunity to chair the GBA Bylaws rewrite committee. Every time I step out of my comfort zone I tend to learn more than I ever expected. Along with learning more about GBA, I get the distinct honor to work with an amazing group of people. The committee was composed of Gina Gallucci, Julia Mahood, Linda Tillman, Emily Heath, and Dan Long. Each and every one of them worked hard to bring these changes to the membership.

I find it amazing how much GBA has grown in the last few years alone. Because of that growth, it is time to review and make changes to our bylaws to keep us moving in the right direction. The committee reviewed and deliberated about the potentially needed changes. In an effort to make the rewrite of the bylaws a simple process to implement, we have listed each and every change that is being recommended separately. Each line item will be voted on individually. The items that do not pass this vote will be looked at more closely to determine why they were voted down. Those items will be considered for further review.

Below you will find the completed list of changes as well as how to read the ballot and where to find the changes within the bylaws. The screenshot below is an example of what you will see when you look at the Bylaws Rewrite Vote in this newsletter.

- **Location:** Provides the location of this change within the bylaws
- **Original:** Provides the current wording of the bylaws (red lettering identifies what is being removed)
- **Changes:** Provides how the change will read (Red lettering identifies added words)
- **Justification:** Insight into why the committee suggested the change
- **Vote:** A simple vote yes or no for each change

The current copy of the bylaws are located on our website here.

We encourage you to read through each of the bylaws and know how you are going to vote before the Fall Meeting. A copy of the voting ballot will be handed out when you arrive at the conference and pick up your name tag. Ballots will be collected at the end of the Saturday members meeting at the Fall Conference. **To cast your vote on the bylaws changes, you MUST attend the Saturday membership meeting.**

Be assured that once the vote has been counted we will be notifying the membership of the results. We hope to publish the results in the next newsletter after the Fall Conference. 🐝

Location	Original	Changes	Justification	VOTE	
				YES	NO
Title	GEORGIABEEKEEPERS	GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS	Grammatical correction		
Article II Section 2:	The Corporation is not organized and shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property or funds of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member.	The Corporation shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit.	Removed to reduce wording and change confusing wording.		
Article IV Section 1: (c)	LIFE: Life Membership may be extended , at the discretion of the Corporation, to those active members who have given exemplary service to the Corporation. Such members shall enjoy all rights and privileges which would have accrued to them as an active member, but shall be excused from payment of membership dues. Life membership must be recommended by the Board of Directors, and approved by a majority vote of the members present at an Annual Membership Meeting.	LIFE: Life Membership may be awarded , at the discretion of the Corporation, to those active members who have given exemplary service to the Corporation. Such members shall enjoy all rights and privileges which would have accrued to them as an active member, but shall be excused from payment of membership dues. Life membership must be recommended by the Board of Directors, and approved by a majority vote of the members present at an Annual Membership Meeting.	Changed wording to be more accurate		
Article IV Section 2: (a)	Membership shall be valid from the date of joining/renewal until the same month and day in the following term (one, two, three, or four years) for which the membership was paid.	Membership shall be valid from the date of joining/renewal until the same month and day in the following year.	GBA no longer offers terms for membership payment. Membership is now managed through auto-recurring payments.		
Article V Heading	Article II. Meetings	Article V. Meetings	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		
Article V Section 3: (a)	A quorum for conducting business at the Membership Meeting shall be the lesser of thirty (30) Members or ten (10) per cent of all Active Members.	A quorum for conducting business at the Membership Meeting shall be the lesser of thirty (30) Members or ten (10) percent of all Active Members.	Grammatical/spelling correction		
Article V Section 3: (d)(i)	Special Membership Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors or when the Board of Directors is petitioned by at least fifteen (15) per cent of the Active Members.	Special Membership Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors or when the Board of Directors is petitioned by at least fifteen (15) percent of the Active Members.	Grammatical/spelling correction		

GBA BYLAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON (CONTINUED)

Location	Original	Changes	Justification	VOTE	
				YES	NO
Article V Section 3: (e)	The business agenda for all Annual Membership Meetings shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following items: (i) Call to order (ii) Reading of the minutes of the last membership meeting (iii) Recognition of visitors and/or guest (iv) Presentation of Awards (v) Report of all Board of Directors meetings since the last membership meeting (vi) Treasurer's report (vii) Reading of all Communications received by the Corporation (viii) Reports of Officers (ix) Reports of Committees (x) Old Business (xi) New Business	The business agenda for all Annual Membership Meetings shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following items: (i) Call to order (ii) Reading of the minutes of the last membership meeting (iii) Recognition of visitors and/or guest (iv) Presentation of Awards (v) Report of all Board of Directors meetings since the last membership meeting (vi) Treasurer's report (vii) Reports of Officers (viii) Reports of Committees (ix) Old Business (x) New Business	Removed the reading of communications received by the secretary. With the instant communication of email this has not been practice in some time. Removed to reduce word and requirements within the bylaws.		
Article VI Heading	Article II. Elections & Voting	Article VI. Elections & Voting	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		
Article VII Heading	Article II. Officers	Article VII. Officers	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		
Article VII Section 2:	Any officer may be removed by the membership at any meeting with respect to which notice of such intent is given to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.	Any officer may be removed for just cause upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and a majority vote of the members present at a membership meeting. Notice of such action is to be given to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to a membership meeting	This statement is misleading. As originally stated it implies that the membership has the authority to remove officers from the Board of Directors. This statement was clarified to state that the Board can remove any officer and the removal must be voted on by the membership.		
Article VII Section 5:(d)	The President shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Beekeeper-of-the-Year Award Committee.	The President shall serve as a member of all committees, except the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Beekeeper-of-the-Year Award Committee.	This position on a committee is traditionally a voting member of the committee and can be confusing because it can sometimes be considered a non-voting member. Ex-officio was removed to negate the confusion of the voting status of the president on committees.		
Article VII Section 7:(b)	The Secretary shall be custodian of the records and the seal of the Corporation, to see that the seal is affixed to all documents and the execution of said documents, which on behalf of the Corporation under its seal, is duly authorized. All electronic records will be stored in a location agreed upon by Secretary, President, and Webmaster.	All electronic records will be stored in a location agreed upon by the Secretary, President, and Webmaster.	Majority of all communications are now stored on electronic file systems. Therefore a seal is not required and this statement was removed from the bylaws.		
Article VII Section 8:(b)(ii)	He/she shall keep careful track of all donations to specific projects of GBA such as the Buzz Fund, the Jr. Beekeeper's Fund, and any other funds designated by the Board.	He/she shall keep careful track of all donations to specific projects of GBA and any other funds designated by the Board.	The naming of funds was removed and stated in general terms so that the bylaws remain current as funds requirements change.		
Article VII Section 8:(g)(ii)	A membership list shall be made available to any member of the Corporation on request. The list shall exclude the name, and all other information, of any member that has indicated this information not be released.	Removed	The membership list of members who have chosen to allow other members to see their information is available at all times to GBA members only on the GBA website which makes this statement outdated. Note: Our membership list is not available to the public but only to members and only if you, in registering your membership, checked that it was ok to share your contact information with other GBA members.		
Article VII Section 8:(h)	The Treasurer shall maintain a complete record of all physical property and equipment owned by the Corporation, the physical location of said property and/or equipment, and the member responsible for the said property and/or equipment.	Removed	This statement was removed and will be placed in a separate document that will provide further instructions for the treasurer.		
Article VIII Heading	Article II. Board of Directors	Article VIII. Board of Directors	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		
Article VIII Section 1:(a)	The Board of Directors for the Corporation shall consist of the current officers, the immediate past President, six Elected Directors, the Newsletter Editor(s), the Webmaster(s), the Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab, and any Ex-officio directors approved by the Board of Directors.	The Board of Directors for the Corporation shall consist of the current officers, the immediate past President, six Elected Directors, the Newsletter Editor(s), the Webmaster(s), the Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab, Presidents of locally affiliated clubs , and any Ex-officio directors approved by the Board of Directors.	This statement was removed and will be placed in a separate document that will provide further instructions for the treasurer.		

GBA BYLAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON (CONTINUED)

Location	Original	Changes	Justification	VOTE	
				YES	NO
Article VIII Section 1:(c)	<p>Each of the Corporation's locally affiliated Clubs or Associations may elect or appoint a local member of that club or association, who is also a GBA Member in good standing, to the Corporation's Board of Directors.</p> <p>(i) Notice of the director is to be sent to and received by the Secretary of the Corporation at least 72 hours prior to the Annual Membership Meeting of the Corporation.</p> <p>(ii) Notice must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The name of the local representative being elected or appointed to the Board. 2) The period of time for which the representative is authorized to serve as the local club's representative to the Board. 3) The name, position, date of election, and signature of the local club officer issuing the notice. <p>(iii) In the event the designated local association director is absent, the Corporation President may seat a member of that local association, who is present at the Board of Directors meeting</p> <p>(iv) , to the board of directors meeting.</p> <p>(v) Any individual designated as a local representative to the Board pursuant to this Paragraph, shall be subject to all of the duties and obligations generally required of any other Board member under this Article</p>	Removed	<p>This section was removed for several reasons.</p> <p>1. The Board of directors consists of the registered local club presidents (currently 44), six Directors, four officers, and four Board Members. This brings the Board to a total of 58 voting members. With such a large group of voting members, everyone who serves on the board needs to be apprised of the bylaws, ongoing programs, and the finances of the corporation. This body of members needs to be as consistent as possible to be able to make informed decisions for the corporation. The board will function most effectively when all are present. This change is to encourage consistency and attendance at the board meetings. This change is also to emphasize the importance of the attendance of our local presidents at the meetings.</p>		
Article VIII Section 2:(b)	In the event that one Member holds two or more positions which would each individually entitle separate Members to distinct seats on the Board, that Member may only vote in fulfillment of one of those positions. However, any Member in said position(s) may designate another Member to vote in fulfillment of the other respective position(s).	In the event that one Member holds two or more positions which would each individually entitle separate Members to distinct seats on the Board, that Member may only vote in fulfillment of one of those positions.	Removed the ability of board members to have more than one vote or to give that vote to a member who is not up to date with the proceedings of the board.		
Article VIII Section 4:(a)	All Board members shall attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors to the best of their ability.	All Board members shall attend the annual business meeting of the corporation and the two regularly scheduled bi-annual board meetings , as well as, to the best of their ability, any called meetings of the Board of Directors.	Strengthened the requirement to attend meetings by all members of the board of directors		
Article VIII Section 5:(a)(iii)	To be qualified to serve as an Elected Director of the Corporation, an individual shall be an Active Member or a Life Member of the Corporation for the term they shall serve and for the immediate past year.	To be qualified to serve as an Elected Director of the Corporation, an individual shall be an Active Member or a Life Member of the Corporation for the term they shall serve.	Removed the requirement to be a paid member for the past year to serve as a director for GBA.		
Article VIII Section 5:(b)(ii)	Elected Directors may serve successive terms at the discretion of the membership.	Removed	This statement is not needed and was removed		
Article VIII Section 6:(b)(ii)	The Newsletter Editor(s) shall coordinate all members of the newsletter editing team to compile and provide a monthly newsletter to the membership.	The Newsletter Editor(s) shall coordinate all members of the newsletter editing team to compile and provide a regularly published newsletter to the membership.	Removed the requirement for monthly newsletters just in case the schedule of the newsletter changes, in order not to violate the bylaws in case the need arises.		
Article VIII Section 8: Title	Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab	Representative from the UGA Honey Bee Lab	Change of terms because the Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab has not served on the board for sometime now.		
Article VIII Section 8:(a)(i)	The Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall be seated as a member of The Board of Directors of the Corporation contemporaneously with their employment in said post through the University of Georgia.	A representative of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall be seated as a member of The Board of Directors of the Corporation contemporaneously with their employment in said post through the University of Georgia.	Change of terms because the Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab has not served on the board for some time now.		
Article VIII Section 8:(b)(i)	The Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall act as a liaison between the Corporation and the University of Georgia Honey Bee Laboratory and the University System's appurtenant departments, entities, and personnel.	The representative of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall act as a liaison between the Corporation and the University of Georgia system.	Change of terms because the Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab has not served on the board for some time now.		
Article VIII Section 8:(b)(ii)	The Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall notify, inform, and educate the Board concerning activities, programs, and policies of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Laboratory and the University System's appurtenant departments and entities which directly, or potentially, apply to honey bees and apiculture.	The representative of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall notify, inform, and educate the Board concerning activities, programs, and policies of the University of Georgia system.	Changed the previous term used for person on the board from the Bee Lab from Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab to "representative" and simplified the ending statement. and		
Article VIII Section 8:(b)(iii)	The Director of the UGA Honey Bee Lab shall act as an adviser to the GBA Prison Beekeeping Program.	Removed	This statement was removed because this has not been put into place and therefore need to be removed.		
Article IX Heading	Article II. Standing Committees	Article IX. Standing Committees	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		

GBA BYLAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON (CONTINUED)

Location	Original	Changes	Justification	VOTE	
				YES	NO
Article IX Section 2:	<p style="text-align: center;">President's Advisory Council (a) Committee Members</p> <p>(i) The President's Advisory Council (PAC) shall be comprised of the individuals currently serving as president of any local GBA recognized beekeeping club or association throughout the state. If the local president is unable to attend a PAC meeting or event, he or she may appoint a delegate to take his or her place.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(b) Purpose</p> <p>(i) The PAC shall provide a forum for the club presidents to communicate directly with the Board of Directors.</p> <p>(ii) The PAC shall identify ways that GBA can meaningfully support and assist clubs throughout the state in their local communities.</p> <p>(iii) The PAC shall establish and foster constructive relationships between GBA Board members and local club leaders.</p>	Removed	This section was removed because this has not been put into place and therefore needs to be removed.		
Article IX Section 3:	Section 3: Legislative Committee	Section 2: Legislative Committee	Section numbering changed <i>NOTE: Each Section to the end of this article will change as well.</i>		
Article IX Section 3: (a)(i)	A Legislative Committee of at least three (3) Active Members shall be selected each year by the President. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the President.	A Legislative Committee of at least three (3) Active Members shall be selected each year by the President. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the President.	Chairman was changed to chair		
Article IX Section 3: (a)(iii)	The Committee shall present all issues and legislation identified as important to the members of the Corporation and the recommended solutions and actions to the Board of Directors at a Board of Directors meeting . The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to provide the Legislative Committee with approved solutions and actions to be carried out on behalf of the Corporation.	The Committee shall present all issues and legislation identified as important to the members of the Corporation and the recommended solutions and actions to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to provide the Legislative Committee with approved solutions and actions to be carried out on behalf of the Corporation.	Removed the requirement that this had to be done at a board meeting		
Article IX Section 4: (a)(i)	A Nomination and Elections Committee of at least three (3) Active Members shall be selected by the President at least six months before the Annual Membership Meeting. 1) The two Directors who are not running for election shall serve on the committee. One of the two serving Directors will be appointed as Chair of the Committee by the President. 2) All other appointed members of the committee shall also be active Members in good standing.	A Nomination and Elections Committee of at least three (3) Active Members shall be selected by the President at least six months before the Annual Membership Meeting. The two Directors who are not running for election shall serve on the committee.	Simplified the requirements of who will serve on the Elections Committee		
Article IX Section 4: (b)(i)	The Committee shall meet at least 60 days before the Annual Membership Meeting, and accept at least one nomination for the each of the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Elected Directors.	The Committee shall meet at least 60 days before the Annual Membership Meeting, and accept at least one nomination for each of the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Elected Directors.	Removed the word "the" to make the statement read correctly		
Article IX Section 5: (b)(ii)	The Committee shall consider the following criteria in their selection process: 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 Committee shall consider the following criteria in their selection process: The Georgia Beekeeper-of-the-Year should: 1. Exemplify good beekeeping practices; 2. Demonstrate leadership; 3. Have experience in public outreach about bees and beekeeping; 4. Actively participate in local, regional, or national beekeeping organizations.	Removed requirements 3 and 4 to revise the description of beekeeper of the year to more easily fit members of GBA.		
Article IX Section 5: (b)(v)	The Chairperson of the Committee, or other selected Committee member, shall be responsible for obtaining the award and shall present the award at the Annual Membership Meeting.	The Chair of the Committee, or other selected Committee member, shall be responsible for obtaining the award and shall present the award at the Annual Membership Meeting.	Simplified wording from Chairperson to Chair		
Article IX Section 5: (a)(iii)	The Chairperson of the Conference Committee shall report directly to the Vice President.	The Chair of the Conference Committee shall report directly to the Vice President.	Simplified wording from Chairperson to Chair		
Article IX Section 6: (b)(i)	The Committee shall be responsible for planning the Spring and Fall Conferences. 1. Select the location and date for each meeting. 2. Plan the program. 3. Select and invite the speakers, plus make all travel and lodging arrangements for the speakers. 4. Procure the necessary meeting rooms. 5. Solicit and/or procure door prizes. 6. Plan all the activities, honey contests, prizes, etc. 7. Design and produce the program brochure. 8. Provide all the information necessary for the Secretary of the Corporation to inform the membership of the meeting by both letter and in the Corporation newsletter. 9. Coordinate with the Treasurer on meeting registration requirements. 10. Perform other obligations as necessary to guarantee a successful meeting	The Committee shall be responsible for planning conferences.	Removed 1-10 details describing what the committee will do. This will be incorporated into the Policies and Procedures Manual.		
Article X Heading	Article II. Amendments	Article X. Amendments	Correction of Article numbering throughout the document		



WILL YOU **BEE A BAKER** FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE?


By *Linda Tillman*

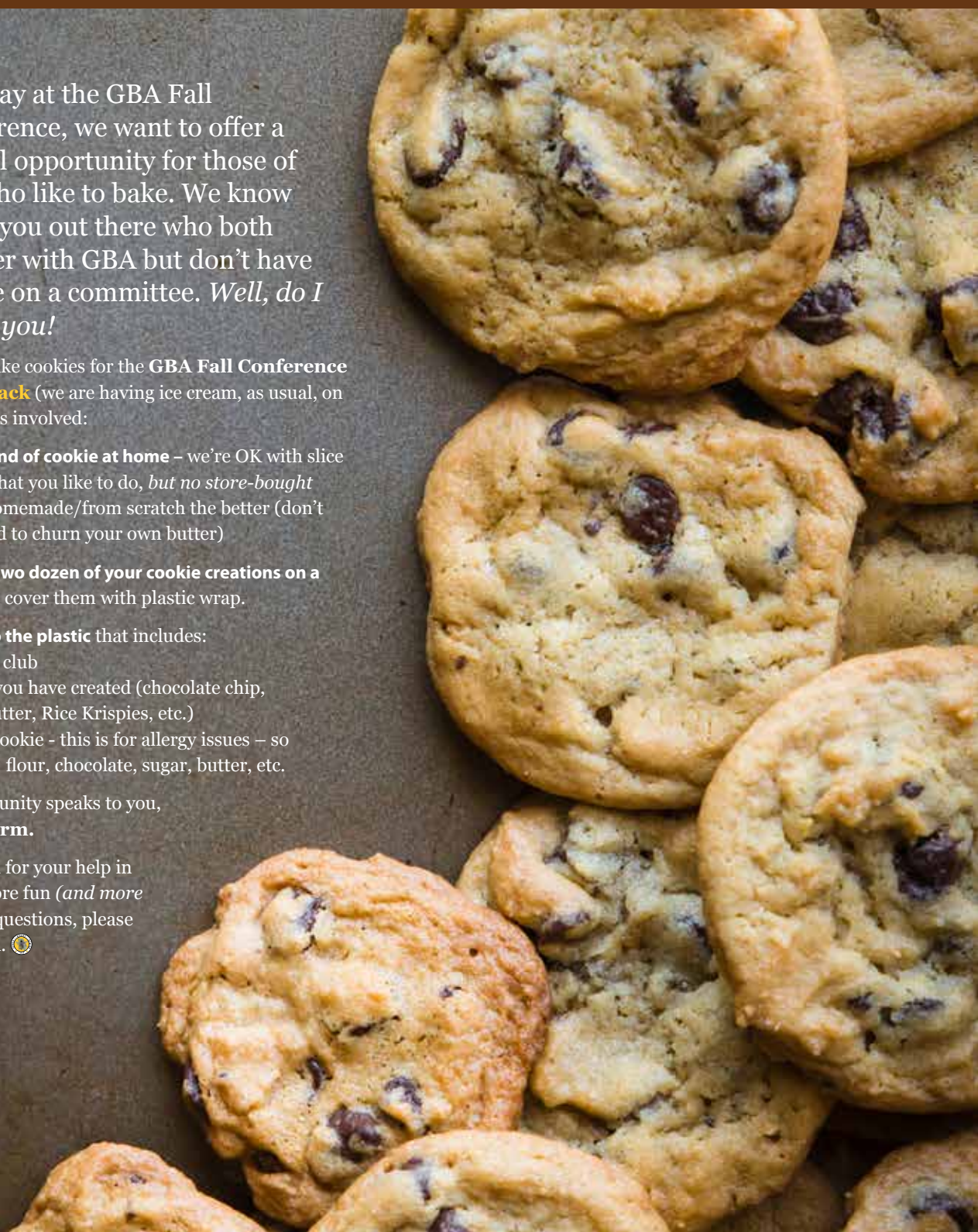
On Friday at the GBA Fall Conference, we want to offer a special opportunity for those of you who like to bake. We know there are lots of you out there who both want to volunteer with GBA but don't have the time to serve on a committee. *Well, do I have a treat for you!*

You can volunteer to bake cookies for the **GBA Fall Conference Friday afternoon snack** (we are having ice cream, as usual, on Saturday). Here's what's involved:

- 1. Bake your favorite kind of cookie at home** – we're OK with slice and bake, if that is what you like to do, *but no store-bought cookies*. The more homemade/from scratch the better (don't worry, you don't need to churn your own butter)
- 2. Bring a minimum of two dozen of your cookie creations on a disposable plate** and cover them with plastic wrap.
- 3. Tape an index card to the plastic** that includes:
 - Your name and bee club
 - The type of cookie you have created (chocolate chip, brownie, peanut butter, Rice Krispies, etc.)
 - Ingredients in the cookie - this is for allergy issues – so not the recipe, just: flour, chocolate, sugar, butter, etc.

If this volunteer opportunity speaks to you, **please fill out this form.**

GBA is forever thankful for your help in making the meeting more fun (*and more delicious*)! If you have questions, please **email Linda Tillman.** 





Plants for Bees: Japanese Maple



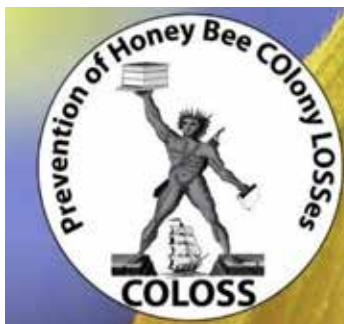
By *Kathy Bourn*

If you're starting to think about what trees you would like to plant this fall, don't forget about your bees. One that I have in my front yard surprised me when I saw my bees working it in the early spring. It is a Japanese Maple, also called the fall welcoming tree. These trees are usually planted because of their wonderful leaf color and low height, but they do offer a little something for the bees, too.

The trees won't give your bees a super-sized diet, but they will produce a little early taste of spring. And because of their low height, they give the beekeeper a beautiful way to watch bees on trees. They are monoecious so they are self-pollinating, but bees will still work the small flowers. They are so quick that I couldn't get a picture of them.

The two *Acer* varieties that are commonly called Japanese Maples are *Acer japonicum* and *Acer palmatum*. They can be planted in spring or fall, but avoid planting in the summer heat. They like slightly acidic soil and filtered sunlight. Their heights can vary from the size of a dwarf shrub to trees that are 25 feet tall.

Japanese maples are very slow growing, but can live for a 100 years or more. There are more than 700 varieties, so you can find one that suits the needs of you and your bees. 🍯



COLOSS Bee Colony Nutrition Survey

The research network COLOSS currently represents more than 300 academic and government researchers, veterinarians, beekeepers, officials and early-stage researchers from 60 countries worldwide. This is an international, non-profit association that is headquartered

in Switzerland.

COLOSS is conducting a Bee Colony Nutrition Survey to understand and focus on improving the well-being of honey bees on a global level. **Please go online at this link to complete the survey.** The survey closes on November 1st. 🍯

A Spring Without Bees

Michael Schacker

Book review by **David Hinton**

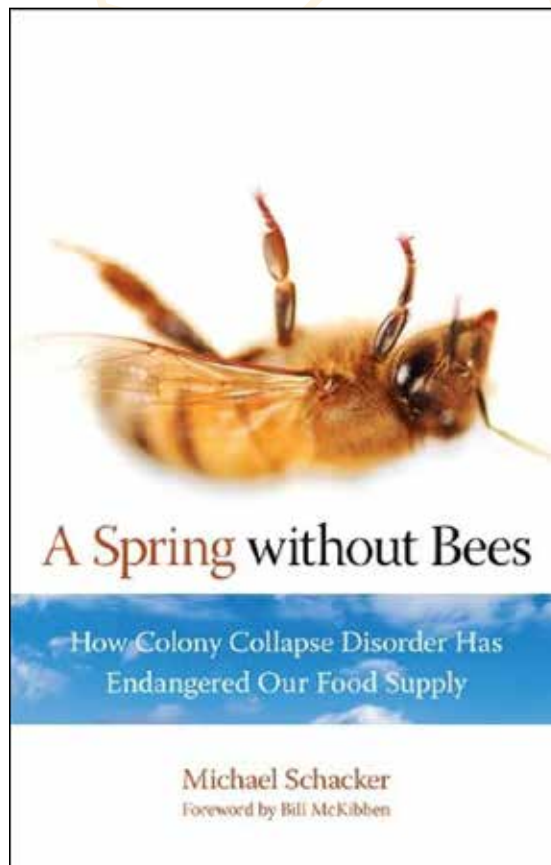
On June 23, 2023, the Bee Informed Partnership, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving bee colony health, released its annual report on hive health across the nation. It's grim reading. During the winter of 2022-2023, an estimated 37.4% of managed colonies in the United States were lost — closely following the second-highest year of winter loss of 2018-2019 (37.7%). This winter loss rate was 13.2% higher than the previous winter and 9.1% higher than the average winter loss reported by beekeepers since the start of the survey in 2008.

The numbers for the entire year (April 1 2022 to April 1, 2023) are even worse: beekeepers in the United States lost an estimated 48.2 of managed bee colonies, 9.2% higher than last year! I don't like to think that "Misery loves company," but with our own losses over 50% this year, I at least could take some solace that it wasn't due to any mismanagement on our part.

Even new beekeepers understand that we've been dealing with dismal numbers on a fairly regular basis for quite some time now. For a historical perspective on the issue, I recommend reading (or for many of you, re-reading) the 2008 book *A Spring Without Bees* by Michael Schacker, subtitled *How Colony Collapse Disorder has Endangered our Food Supply*.

This book has been compared to Rachel Carson's groundbreaking book *Silent Spring*, which in 1962 famously warned the nation about the dangerous, indiscriminate use of pesticides in the nation. The uproar generated by *Silent Spring* led to the banning of DDT in the United States. In fact, the book jacket blurb for *A Spring Without Bees* refers to it as *A Silent Spring* for the 21st Century.

The American public today does seem to have a heightened



awareness both about how important honey bees are for the nation's food supply, and we can attribute much of that awareness to *A Spring Without Bees*. The terrible devastation caused to honeybees by what came to be known as "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD) was first reported in 2006. That year, beekeepers began reporting high colony losses associated with honeybees simply disappearing from the hives all at the same time, with no dead bees found around the hives. *A Spring Without Bees* was published in 2008 and received wide attention, publicizing the threat of CCD.

Although scientific knowledge about the threat to honeybees has certainly increased since the book's publication, its information is still valid and informative. Schacker presents a broad array of ameliorative measures including making your home and lawn

organic, reducing if not eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides (especially on golf courses!), and increasing the usage of biological controls for pests.

More than 50 years ago, the publication of *Silent Spring* caused some real and positive changes — but not enough. In 2008 *A Spring Without Bees* heightened public awareness of the honey bees crisis in the United States, but given the new statistics about colony loss, very little has changed. 🐝

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 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**.



Share Your Club’s Upcoming Meeting Plans With Us!

We want to know (and share) what events and activities your local club has planned.

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. Thank you! 🍯



Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	<i>president@gabeekeeping.com</i>	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	<i>vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com</i>	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	<i>secretary@gabeekeeping.com</i>	
Luke Ellerman	Treasurer	<i>treasurer@gabeekeeping.com</i>	334-540-1102

DIRECTORS	REGION	EMAIL	PHONE
Bobby Chaisson	Northeast Georgia	<i>blueskyhoney@live.com</i>	706-540-4166
Cindy Hodges	Metro Atlanta	<i>HodgesHoney@gmail.com</i>	770-861-2112
Brutz English	Central Georgia	<i>brutzenglish@gmail.com</i>	770-843-2110
Emily Heath	Southwest Georgia	<i>Emilyheath@windstream.net</i>	478-951-0879
Karen Palmer	Southeast Georgia	<i>honeyplease007@gmail.com</i>	912-678-2144
Monica Sheppard	Northwest Georgia	<i>monicashep@comcast.net</i>	706-767-7779

BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Peter Helfrich	Newsletter Editor	<i>peterghelfrich@yahoo.com</i>	404-642-2923
Kathleen Bourn	Newsletter Editor	<i>kathleenbourn@gmail.com</i>	404-219-7200
Jonathan Hayes	Webmaster	<i>webmaster@gabeekeeping.com</i>	478-396-7228
Linda Tillman	Past President	<i>pastpresident@gabeekeeping.com</i>	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	<i>jbee@uga.edu</i>	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 Beekeepers Association

For those of you who receive/read the *Newnan Times-Herald*, hopefully, everyone caught the beekeeping article that included two of our CBA members. Kudos to Board Members **Newt Morris** and **Steve Page** for participating in writing an article in the newspaper to share what we are doing in the community with beekeeping! **Here's a link to the article: *Beekeeping in Coweta: A Fascinating Business.***

Also, a shout-out to **Alex and Leslie Rogers, Mark Schwartz**, and **Pam Rentz** for helping to get Coweta Beekeepers Association to participate in the Georgia's State Parks & Historic Sites "Take Flight" event at Chattahoochee Bend State Park this past week. This year's event programming theme focused on birds, bats and pollinators. 🐝



Forsyth Beekeepers Club

Forsyth Beekeepers Club Celebrated World Honey Bee Day and FBC's 25th anniversary on August 19th. A public celebration was held between 10 am and 2 pm at Sawnee Mountain Preserve. A huge crowd turned out for crafts and bee education. 15 volunteers from the club were on hand to educate and assist.

Butch Shelton, Bill Dunn and **Teri Meyer** held lectures on *What is Beekeeping, Honey and Hive Products, Pesticides and Bees*, and *What to Plant for Pollinators*.

Then, from 4 pm to 6 pm, a private event was held. Several past presidents attended, including **Marc and Sue Conlyn** (2011 and 2014), **Butch Shelton** (2016, 2019) and **Teri Meyer** (2017, 2023).

Forsyth Beekeepers' annual honey show was held at this event. The show was judged by **Rodney Garner** and **Nicholas Weaver**. **Becky Sanner** took home the Best in Show award and \$600.00 total prize money. During the event, **Bill Dunn** (below, bottom) had the honor of cutting the birthday cake as he is the only active charter member of the Forsyth Beekeepers Club.

Happy Anniversary Forsyth Beekeepers! We look forward to many more years. 🐝



Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association was pleased to host **Mary Cahill-Roberts** (right) at our August 7th meeting. She taught us about requirements and techniques for entering honey and other hive products in honey shows. She inspired us to prepare for the upcoming huge honey and artisan show at the GBA Fall Conference in September. 🐝



Club News

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Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, August 15th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program, "Preparing for a Honey Show," was presented by **Anita Curry**. Anita discussed the value of a honey show and how the preparation of an entry trains us to be better beekeepers. She gave an overview of how honey shows began and where we are today, using the strict standards of the American Honey Judge Training Council when judging entries. She also emphasized how important it is to read the rules. Anita presented a few of her award-winning entries.

Our September meeting will be on Tuesday, September 19th. The program will be on wax rendering. Mentoring begins at 6:30 and the program at 7:00. We look forward to seeing you! Check us out on Facebook www.hogba.org 🍯

Lake Country Beekeepers Association



In 2017, the Lake Country Beekeepers Association partnered with the Sparta-Hancock County Library. Over this six-year period, the library's staff and facility have offered a convenient and friendly place in Sparta, GA for our monthly beekeeping meetings. At the August meeting, member **Andrea Perkins** of Unity Grove Farms shared her knowledge of uses for honey and beeswax. A black jar honey-tasting event was held. Honey from 12 of our member beekeepers was sampled and voted best tasting by members in attendance (left top). The



2023 LCBA Black Jar winners and awards went to: **Bobby Whitfield** (1st place-\$50), **Rehba Ragan** (2nd place-\$25) and **Don Graham** (3rd Place-\$20) (left middle). On August 19th, World Honey Bee Day, LCBA volunteers offered an all-about honey bees drop-in for

the public at the library. The beekeepers displayed and discussed beekeeping tools and equipment, honey varietals and tasting, beekeeping art, and the importance of pollinators to our food supply. Thanks to our beekeeping volunteers who helped to make this event fun and a success: **Dan Adams, Mary Lacksen, Juliet Ruhl** and **Mary Sims** (left bottom). 🍯

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

The annual lakeside picnic for the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association was rained out, so we headed indoors to the Hart County Schools AgriScience Center. That meant we could have food, families and a fun trivia contest brought to us by our GBA regional director **Bobby Chaisson**.

LHBA members spent Honey Bee Day, August 19th, participating in the Hart County Ag Expo. This event features all the products, services and innovations surrounding the agriculture industry that Hart County offers. LHBA members **Kevin McCraney, Holli Kircher, Daniel Tompkins, Steve Jones** and **Kathy Bourn** gave attendees a taste of what honey bees and beekeeping are all about, along with a taste of assorted kinds of honey. Our display featured a video on how to inspect a beehive, various pamphlets about pollinators, a demonstration of the wide variety of products from the hive, and a very popular observation hive. 🍯



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



At the August meeting of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, **Dr. Brock Harpur** (left), assistant professor of entomology at Purdue University, spoke on the topic of honey bee genetics. His talk was both informative and accessible, presenting his current research with his trademark humor.

Harpur will be one of GBA's featured keynote speakers at the upcoming fall conference. There he will speak first on *History And Lessons On Honey Bee Genetics Through The Eyes Of A Drone* in which he will outline how inheritance occurs in bees and how modern genetic techniques can be used to understand our bees better. His second presentation, *Honey Bee Genetics Of The U.S. With Special Emphasis On Georgia*, will help beekeepers understand where honey bees in the United States come from and what that means for beekeepers and bee breeders.

MABA will not hold a regular meeting in September. Instead, the **Annual Picnic & Honey Show** will be held Sunday, Sept. 17th, at the Galloway School, 215 Chastain Park Ave NW, Atlanta, GA 30342. Honey Show entries will be received from 4-5 pm. Picnic 5-8 pm. 🍯

Oglethorpe County Bee Club



On Saturday, August 19th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club and the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association kicked off National Honey Bee Day with a honey bee jamboree.

We had a great BBQ from the Butt Hutt in Athens and awesome bluegrass music provided by **Blaine Everson** and **Dennis Helmreich**. The Blue Ribbon winner of the Best Tasting Honey competition was **Harold Lanier** (left top), and the Trophy winner of the Trivia contest was **Maureen Buhr** (left middle). Presidents **Dan Long** and **Joe Conti** (left bottom, stuffing his face) were the organizers of this event. Thanks to all members who participated in making this gathering of beekeepers a huge success! 🍯



Paulding County Beekeepers Association

The Paulding County Beekeepers Association (PCBA) will host a one-day Bee College for people interested in becoming beekeepers, people looking to expand their beekeeping knowledge, and/or people interested in using products from the hive to make crafts. The one-day Bee College will be held on November 11, 2023, at the Chattahoochee Technical College, Paulding (Dallas) Campus.



The Bee College will kick-off with guest speaker **Bob Binnie** (right). Bob is a well-known commercial beekeeper and will be sharing his insight on beekeeping. Participants will be able to select from more than 20 breakout sessions which will cover beginning beekeeping, mead-making, crafting, and advanced beekeeping research topics. There will also be an open question and answer session to ask local experts about any topic.



The cost is \$65 for not-yet members of PCBA. Lunch will be provided, and the first 50 applicants will receive a copy of Dr. Keith Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*.

Complete details on instructors, and breakout sessions, or to enroll visit pauldingbees.com.

Paulding County Beekeepers Association, Inc. is committed to supporting beekeepers in Paulding and surrounding counties by providing education, fellowship, and support. 🍯

TriCounty Beekeepers

Bob Binnie spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about tips on what we should be doing for our bees this season in his "Year in the Bee Yard" presentation. Attendees were treated to birthday cake and other homemade snacks brought out on account of President **Bobby Chaisson's** birthday celebrations, too!



Next month, **Dr. Lewis Bartlett** will catch us up on the latest research happening at the UGA Bee Lab with a focus on those pesky small hive beetles we are starting to see in our hives this time of year. 🍯

Club Meetings*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Altamaha Beekeepers	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 Christian Academy 775 Dacula Road, Dacula, GA 30019	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Sept. 12	Harold Lanier (Also: Watch for information about our Bee School in March 2024 soon!)	gwinnettbeekeepers@gmail.com	Gwinnett
Beekeepers of Gilmer County	Gilmer County Civic Center 1561 S. Main, Ellijay, 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
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 Beekeepers Association	Coweta Extension Office 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263	2nd Monday, 7pm	Sept. 11	<i>The Business of Beekeeping</i> – Marcus Pollard	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, 7pm			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)		Wax Rendering	heartofgabeekeepers@gmail.com	Houston
Henry County Beekeepers	Farm Bureau Office (rear side door) 117 Racetrack Rd, McDonough, GA 30253	2nd Tuesday, 7pm	Sept. 12	Common Bee Problems	henrybeebuzz123@yahoo.com	Henry

Club Meetings* *(cont'd)*

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

Club	Location	Schedule	Date	Topic & Speaker	Email	County
Lake 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, 6:30pm			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 Association	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305	3rd Tuesday, 7pm (mentoring, 6:30pm)		No regular meeting this month. Annual Picnic & Honey Show, Sunday, Sept. 17th Honey Show entries, 4-5 pm. Picnic 5-8 pm. Galloway School, 215 Chastain Park Ave NW, Atlanta, GA 30342	president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org	Fulton
Mountain Beekeepers	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, 6:30pm			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, 5:30pm			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 Beekeepers Association	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
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			monicashop@comcast.com	Floyd
SOWEGA Beekeepers Club	105 Chehaw Park Rd Albany, GA 31701	2nd Thursday, 6pm			sowegabeekeepersclub@gmail.com	Dougherty
Tara Beekeepers Association	Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church 1150 Jefferson Ave., East Point, GA 30344	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 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



Spilling *The* Honey

OCTOBER 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our fall 2023 GBA conference! The event featured world-class speakers, apriary product vendors, a honey, wax, and artisan 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. Our conference committee (including Julia Mahood, Jonathan Hayes, Kathy Bourn, Brutz English, Emily Heath, and Bobby Chaisson) spends countless hours on 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.

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 **Julia Mahood**, who has worked for years to raise the standards and expectations for every conference GBA presents. She worked closely with the UGA Master Beekeepers Program for our first-ever team-up for the testing and certification. I am grateful to Julia for her energetic leadership. She worked closely with each department to ensure a terrific outcome. We had more than 300 people in attendance!

Bobby Chaisson was our man on the ground for the Ramsey Conference Center, managing the elections along with vendor and sponsorship relations. He donated lanyards and printed our name tags, did honey ice cream ordering and serving, and helped with registration and technical difficulties. **Jonathan Hayes** had our website up to date before and during registration and worked tirelessly at registration with expert responses for same-day registrants.

Mark Shields handled the secretary minute recording, served as the swag committee chair, and set up all the emails leading up to the conference.

Luke Ellerman managed all our finances, paid our bills, and spent a portion of his conference teaching our newly elected treasurer, **Drew Harvey**, how to get the job done.

Continued on next page >



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

See complete
conference
coverage
bee-ginning
on page 6



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Emily Heath worked ahead of the conference on the swag committee, made goody bags for speakers, helped with registration, set up and sold tickets for GBA Swag and raffles for almost the entire conference.

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*. They also worked the door prizes and raffle tickets. Kathy also coordinated the efforts of all the many volunteer helpers, and was a stellar timekeeper for us, too, keeping conference presenters on schedule.

Linda Tillman was in charge of the snacks. She asked for a team of bakers and she got 26! The home-baked cookies were a huge hit on Friday and there were enough to have left-overs with honey ice cream on Saturday.

I'm grateful for **Jimmy Gatt** who helped me with tech difficulties. **Ann Shelton**, **Butch Shelton**, **Jon Cordell** and **Robert Holland** spent Thursday setting up the registration desk, gift bags and signage. **Beth Arechiga**, **Kindle Busbee**, **Sue Barnes**, **Stacy Ellis** and **Peter Helfrich** stepped in at the raffle table. **Summer Cordell** helped dish up ice cream and cookies. **Peter Helfrich** and **Mary Lacksen** kept the registration desk running. You got your drink tickets and raffle tickets from **Stacy Ellis**.

Brutz English managed the honey, wax, and artisan show and made sure we didn't miss anything at our business or board meeting. Thanks also to the honey judges: **Brutz English** (Chair), **Virginia Webb**, **Robert Brewer**, **Mary Cahill-Roberts**, **Sheryl Brousseau**, **Kara Bassett**, **Darek Foti**, **Rodney Garner**, **Nancy Deason**, **Nancy Simpson**, **Nicholas Weaver**, **Gail Dean**, **Jay Parsons**, and **Michael Badger**, MBE. Show Secretaries: **Katie Goodman**, **Robin Cahill-Roberts**, **Anita Curry**, **Troy Winters**, **Stephanie Slater**. Stewards: **Tim Hyde**, **Amy Kaiser**, **Otto Kaiser**, **Chris Smith**, **Chris Jones**, **Erin Olmon**, and **Edward Morgan**.

Emily, Karen and **Jason Palmer** all sold GBA swag. **Eddie Gwaltney** again provided beautiful music, playing the keyboard during the conference 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. As usual, it is a large and devoted team who make GBA run. My admiration only grows toward all of you who created this marvelous conference. 🍯

- *Gina*



Above: Scenes from the fall conference, including: A wide variety of eclectic and colorful entries in the artisan show; shopping for insulated hives in the vendors' corridor; taking in Dr. Dewey Caron's keynote presentation on varroa; a packed ballroom audience at Lanier Technical College's Ramsey Conference Center in Gainesville, GA.

Do you read the GBA Newsletter?

And a few more questions...

We want you, our members, to make use of and enjoy the wealth of information in our monthly newsletter. To make the newsletter best fit the needs and wishes of our membership, we are conducting a survey about your readership. We need your help to better understand what you like and don't like about the newsletter. We want to know why you read it, if you do, and why you don't read it, if you don't. **Click here to take the survey.**

Please feel free to answer as honestly as possible. Your name and responses are anonymous unless you choose at the end to give us your email address. For those individuals, we will award a GBA magnet to each of the first 25 completed surveys we receive. In addition, everyone who submits a survey and shares their email address will be entered into a drawing for a more significant prize. 🍯



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it!

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 🍯

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci
GBA Treasurer Luke Ellerman
GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Bob Binnie
Gail Dean
Katie Goodman

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.





FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

Tri County Beekeepers, Hall County Park Install An Apiary

By **Jon Cordell**, *Wild Branch Bees*

Late last fall, my wife, Summer, and I went to North Hall Recreation Center (4175 Nopone Rd, Gainesville, GA) to walk our dog on the trails. This was our first visit to the park, and on the way to the walking trails we passed an open area with a sign that read “Pollinator Garden Maintained by Hall County Master Gardeners.” It was in a very large, open area. I said to Summer, “A pollinator garden needs pollinators.”

I went into the Recreation Center and was introduced to Becky Ruffner, Marketing and Public Relations Specialist for Hall County Parks and Leisure. Becky was very enthusiastic about the idea of having honey bees near the garden. Additionally, the facility will be available for presentations and demonstrations.

In February, with the help of Tri-County Beekeeper Club President Bobby Chaisson, I applied for and was awarded a grant from the GBA License Plate Fund. This made it possible, with other aid from donors, to begin collecting and building the apiary.

By early May, the apiary consisted of a 10-frame hive, an 8-frame hive (from Lanier Bee Barn) and a 31-frame Long Langstroth hive (built by Underwood Wood Works). The 10-frame and long Lang received nucs from Lanier Bee Barn in late May and Georgia Bee Removal donated bees for the 8-frame hive in June. All three are doing amazingly well.

We already have our first mentee, Elsa Alvarez, who is the Park Manager. Summer and I put a jacket on Elsa when we installed the first two colonies, and she was smitten. She wants to be totally involved and is ready for more colonies in the apiary, which I plan to add next spring. The hives will also be used as part of the Tri-County Beekeepers mentorship program, as well as promoting beekeeping in the North Hall community.

Summer and I, owners of Wild Branch Bees, wish to thank all the donating sponsors: GBA License Plate Fund, Hall County Parks and Recreation (for allowing the space for the apiary), and the aforementioned businesses. 🐝



Above: Sign created by Bobby Chaisson, owner of Georgia Bee Removal. Insets: Summer Cordell installs nuc in 8-frame hive from Lanier Bee Barn. Horizontal Hive, built by Underwood Woodworks, looking good two months after installing a nuc from Lanier Bee Barn. 10-frame and 8-frame hives from Lanier Bee Barn.



Saved By The Bees

By *Marcus Pollard, Bee Pimpn*

That day, as I loaded up my truck and reviewed my mental checklist of supplies and goals, I couldn't fathom the events that were about to unfold. I traveled to four bee yards, totaling some 70 colonies. My plan was to do bi-weekly inspections and feeding, preparing for the winter shutdown. The first two bee yards went without a hitch. The girls were strong, active, and working.

I arrived at the third bee yard, hot and dirty. This site is in a heavily wooded area just outside an open pasture. Driving through the muddy and bumpy trail, I finally reached my apiary. My mind was swarming with tasks and purpose. I zipped up my Provent bee suit, donned my gloves, arrived at the first colony, and retrieved my pro lifter and scraper from my pocket. Then, I paused... I felt that something wasn't right. An ominous feeling clouded the air.

I lifted my head to survey the area when my eyes locked with another's – a ravenous cur, with murderous intent. I loudly proclaimed to the dog, "Get outta here!" and again I yelled, "Go on, get!" while gesturing aggressively with my arms. The unflinching resolve of the beast let me know there was only one thing on its mind.

I gazed into the black eyes of the animal, glazed, unbiased, focused – a look given by what I surmised was the devil himself. The low rumble of its growl started to fill the air, its lips curled with evil intent, its shiny jagged teeth bared, its mouth salivating uncontrollably. What seemed like an eternity must have been only a couple of minutes or even

seconds. I weighed my options: I could run, but these mid-30s legs don't move like they used to; plus there was no way I could outrun it (and where would I go?). Then, mid-thought, it charged me! It closed the distance in an instant and hit me, knocking me down, its mouth full of bee suit fabric, claws thrashing and digging into my skin.

I wrestled with the deranged animal, fighting to get it off. Then, I remembered I was not alone. At my beck and call, I had tens of thousands of friends.

I wrestled with the deranged animal, fighting to get it off. Then, I remembered I was not alone. At my beck and call, I had tens of thousands of friends (the enemy of my enemy...). I summoned my friends to action with one swift and powerful kick, knocking over the double-deep colony. Like a tornado they emerged, the loud angry buzz of 30,000 bees competing with the sounds of the scuffle. Within seconds, we were covered by the new entrants into the conflict.

Growls turned to yelps. The dog thrashed around unable to focus on what to fight against. I was now able to get to my feet. Accustomed to the stings and protected by my suit, I was now in the advantage. One determined kick to the beast's ribs and off into the woods it went, still covered by my protective girls. Shocked by the ordeal, my suit torn, no idea if I was injured, I quickly reassembled the disturbed box and made my way back to the truck. I sat in my truck coming to grips with what had just happened. I removed my hood and noticed a gash on the back crest of my head. Given the circumstances, I determined the day was done.

At the start of my day, I could have never imagined I would be saved by my bees! 🐝



FALL 2023 GBA CONFERENCE RECAP

SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

Dr. Brock Harpur (Purdue University) addresses conference attendees during the first of his two keynote presentations. In addition to world-class speakers, the fall conference featured apiary product vendors, a honey, wax and artisan show, and a great chance to visit with beekeeping friends from across the state.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:





2023 GBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR: JONATHAN HAYES

By Linda Tillman

When Dan Long announced that Jonathan Hayes was the 2023 GBA Beekeeper of the Year, Jonathan was completely shocked. “I was up against tough competition,” he said. “I thought Mary Cahill Roberts or Peter Helfrich either one had a better chance of getting it than I did.”

Jonathan is the kind of guy who is great on a team. He has served GBA as well as his local club, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, in so many ways. A huge contribution that he makes is serving as the GBA webmaster. He moved our website onto Wild Apricot so it is more user friendly and very well-organized. During the pandemic, when we were unable to have in-person meetings, he worked tirelessly to put on the two conferences we presented virtually. Afterward, he and Linda Tillman wrote up the way the virtual conference worked for publication in the American Bee Journal. He serves regularly on the GBA Conference Committee. Recently Jonathan even chaired a committee to revise the by-laws. The membership voted on and passed all of the suggested changes at the September business meeting.

When asked what he feels best about in his work for GBA, Jonathan said, “I think what we did to put on the virtual conferences.” That was a *huge* contribution because without Jonathan’s technical wisdom, patience and expertise, we would never have had conferences during the pandemic.

I asked Jonathan what it means to him to volunteer/give to GBA. He replied, “I thoroughly enjoy what I do for GBA. I like working behind the scenes instead of being up front. I feel good with what I am doing because I am helping educate people about bees. Also I enjoy the people at GBA. It’s always fun to see these people who are not in my immediate friend group at home. I now have friends across the state. GBA brings us all together and I always look forward to seeing them.”

Jonathan attributes his work with GBA and with his local club to his personal success at his real job where he is now in a supervisory role. He has gained confidence as he has stepped into leadership roles in the beekeeping world and that has led to more success in his workplace.

Jonathan’s wife, Amanda, was so excited for him and thrilled that he was chosen Beekeeper of the Year. After all, Jonathan wouldn’t be in beekeeping if it weren’t for Amanda. She asked for bees for Mother’s Day one year, but when Jonathan drove her to Milledgeville where they were picking up the bees, she refused to get out of the car. She suddenly claimed she was allergic to bees! Jonathan got out of the car, picked up the bees and has been in the hives ever since.

Congratulations to Jonathan Hayes, our GBA 2023 Beekeeper of the Year. 🐝



2023 GBA Beekeeper of the Year Jonathan Hayes (left) receives his award from Dan Long, last year’s recipient.



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

LEFTOVER CONFERENCE LUNCHES HELP FEED THOSE **IN NEED**

By *Latisha Springer*

Formerly known as Free99Fridge, **ATLFreeFridge** is a grassroots, mutual aid initiative I founded in the summer of 2020. I started that journey with the simple premise that eating healthy, daily meals shouldn't be a privilege, and I set out on a mission to establish a community fridge to provide open access to fresh food free of charge to anyone who needed it. A community fridge (aka a solidarity fridge) is simply a working refrigerator placed outside of a local business and stocked by the community with fresh food – *open 24/7/365 for the community*. This is a people-powered movement. Anyone can put food in or take food out anytime – no questions asked. The community fridge is emptied every 1-2 hours every day, all day. The biggest challenge has always been keeping the fridge filled for our very hungry neighbors. Everyone in the community is encouraged to take ownership of the solidarity fridge and make regular food contributions as a part of their daily lives. No amount is too small.

While I'm no longer directly involved with ATLFreeFridge, I seize

every opportunity to support our community by taking fresh produce and prepared meals to the community fridge located at 611 Medlock Road, Decatur. I'm incredibly grateful to the GBA conference organizers for offering me the leftover boxed lunches from the recent GBA Fall Conference to share with our neighbors in need. After attending the conference, I took the 32 boxes home to add allergen labels before delivering them to our community fridge that night. There were six people at the fridge while I was there who were *very* excited about the meals. (They were also incredibly fascinated that there's a large group of people who actually *like* bees and had an entire conference about them. LOL!) I left the rest of the boxes inside the fridge for our overnight shoppers to enjoy later.

Thank you, GBA for helping reduce food waste and fighting for food justice in our city! 🐝

Please visit atlfreefridge.com to learn more about the Atlanta community fridge movement and how you can get involved.



The ATLFreeFridge is located outside the church at 611 Medlock Road in Decatur.



Leftover box lunches from last month's conference were a welcome addition to the solidarity fridge.



CONFERENCE RECAP: SWEET TREATS BAKED FOR GBA EATS

By *Linda Tillman*

When the call went out for volunteer cookie bakers, more than two dozen people responded. The Friday snack was made delicious by all of their efforts. If you attended the GBA Fall Conference, you were a lucky beneficiary of their contribution.

The bakers were asked to bake a minimum of two dozen cookies, but many of them arrived with three or four dozen cookies in hand. As a result, we had enough cookies to eat both on Friday and again on Saturday with the traditional honey ice cream snack. Wayne Hughes said, "I had one of Peter Helfrich's ginger cookies *with* the honey ice cream. It was the perfect pairing."

The cookies ranged from some gluten free offerings and honey chocolate mousse tartlets to several varieties of both chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal cookies. Every one of them was a tasty treat. Even the honey judges got to partake because we took them a platter containing a collection of the different cookies on the table.

Dan Long brought a tray of five dozen yummy sugar cookies impressed with a honeycomb stamp. Teri Meyer brought five or six trays of different kinds of her cookies which are always a treat. Peter Helfrich, who was eating one of Teri's cookies, raved to me, "This cookie has rosemary in it. I've never had rosemary in a cookie and it's absolutely delicious."

The cookie bakers accepted a volunteer opportunity to help with the GBA meeting in a nurturing way and we are all so glad for it. The bakers came from all across the state. Some of the bee clubs represented were Beekeepers of Gwinnett, CEBA, Commerce, Eastern Piedmont, Forsyth, Heart of Georgia, Lake Hartwell, MABA, NE Georgia Mountain, Paulding County, and Troup County. A few of the bakers did not list a home bee club.

You can read all the bakers' names below: Beth Archiga, Kathy Bourn, Kindle Busbee, Sandra Campbell, Summer Cordell, Linda Day, Deb DeWitt, Lyn and Gerald Folds, Tara Haines, Peter Helfrich, Angie Jones, Dan Long, Betty Jo McConnell, Kari McDowell, Teri Meyer, Keri Montgomery, Cindy Mullins, Joyce O'Bannon, Dee Olekas, Mark Revill, Shakiyla Reyna, Mary Royle, Latisha Springer, Linda Tillman, and Lori White. Thanks to all of them for taking a unique and special volunteer role for the GBA conference. 🍪



We will publish cookie recipes from the GBA Conference Friday snack break in upcoming editions of *Spilling The Honey*. Try them, you'll like them!

“Mary’s Marvelous Morsels” Super Sugar Cookies

Mary Royle | mkroyle@gmail.com

Yield: 5 dozen 2” cookies. (Best if baked on parchment paper lined cookie sheets.)

Beat together until fluffy:

- 6 oz cream cheese
- 4 sticks of butter
- 2 c sugar

Add and mix:

- 2 egg yolks
- 2 t vanilla

In another bowl, mix together:

- 4 ½ c Flour
- 1 t salt

Add to first bowl and mix. Chill until stiff enough to handle.

Cut cookies: Roll out to ¼” thick and cut with cookie cutters. (Use a mixture of 1/3 c flour, 1/3 c powdered sugar, and 1/3 granulated sugar mixed together to dust the cutting board while rolling dough.) GBA cookies were cut.

Drop cookies: Drop quarter to half dollar size spoonful of dough on the cookie sheet. (Optional: Roll each drop into a ball). Fill a bowl with sugar—white or colored. When starting to press cookies, get the bottom of a glass or cookie press oily by pushing it in the bowl of dough, so as to pick up sugar for the first cookie. Press each cookie gently with the bottom of the sugared glass or cookie press.

Bake at 350 13-15 min. Tips: Use REAL butter. Cookie is done BEFORE they turn brown on the edges.

Ways to finish these cookies after they are cool. (GBA cookies were glazed.)

Glaze (used to cover entire cookie):

- 3 c powdered sugar
- 2 T corn syrup
- 3-4 T milk (Note: Add milk as need to make consistency of honey. Used much more for GBA cookies.)
- ½ t almond extract
- ½ t orange extract

Mix until smooth. Dries hard and shiny.

And if you want to make it fancier yet:

Icing (Use to pipe on details)

- 4 c powdered sugar
- 3 T Meringue Powder
- 4-6 T water
- ½ t almond extract
- ½ t orange extract

Mix with electric mixer until fluffy. Color as desired. Pipe on. Dries hard.



Deb DeWitt’s Salted Tahini Chocolate Chip+Heath Bar Crunch Cookie

Adapted from the *New York Times*

Yield: 12 to 18 cookies

Ingredients:

- 4 ounces/113 grams unsalted butter at room temperature
- ½ cup/120 milliliters tahini, well stirred
- 1 cup/200 grams granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup plus 2T/150 grams all-purpose flour, or matzo cake meal
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1¾ cups/230 grams chocolate chips or chunks, bittersweet or semisweet
- ¾ cup Heath Bar Crunch
- Flaky salt, like fleur de sel or Maldon

To Prepare:

Cream butter, tahini and sugar at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg, egg yolk and vanilla and continue mixing at medium speed for another 5 minutes.

Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder and kosher salt into a large bowl and mix with a fork. Add flour mixture to butter mixture at low speed until just combined. Fold in chocolate chips. Dough will be soft. Refrigerate 12 hours to ensure tender cookies.

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Use a large ice cream scoop to form dough into 12 to 18 balls. Place the cookies on parchment-lined baking sheet at least three inches apart. Bake 13 to 16 minutes until just golden brown around the edges to make thick, soft cookies.

As cookies come out of the oven, sprinkle sparsely with salt. Cool at least 20 minutes on a rack.





SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

CONFERENCE RECAP: FALL CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS

1. Dr. Lewis Bartlett informs attendees about the latest news on the Yellow Legged Hornet in Georgia. 2. Conference goers take in a keynote presentation. 3. Dr. Brock Harpur speaks on honey bee genetics. 4. UGA's Dr. Jorg Mayer speaks on emerging apitherapy applications for veterinarians. 5. Georgia Zumwalt and Dewey Caron chat in the vendor area. 6. Bobby Chaison, Jonathan Hayes and Luke Ellerman staff the check-in table. 7. Dewey Caron speaking on defensive bees. 8. Attentive attendees listen during a break-out session. 9. David Holloman speaks about organizing apiary equipment. 10. Many break-out sessions were standing room only.



11. Keynote speakers Brock Harpur, Lewis Bartlett and Isaac Weinberg chat long the vendor corridor. 12. Edward Morgan presents about his experiences running apiary visits on the Air BnB Experiences platform. 13. UGA's Jennifer Berry speaks about bee biology as part of the conference's bee-ginner track programming.



CONFERENCE RECAP: THE FALL CONFERENCE IN PHOTOS

SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

1. Artistic supers created by members of the prison program were sold via silent auction.
2. The vendor area was a popular draw, with sellers of all manor of apiary products.
3. Those looking for books to read during the winter "off season" had plenty to choose from.
4. Attendees shop along the vendor corridor.
5. The insulated hives from HiveIQ drew many interested conference attendees.
6. Fine art for sale in the vendor area.
7. A group photo of this year's proud new Certified Beekeepers.
8. Plates of cookies arrive ahead of Friday's delicious cookie snack break.
9. The conference was a great time to renew old acquaintances and take photos.
10. Emily Heath sells GBA merch.



11. Karen Miller smiles after the announcement of her Journeyman Beekeeper certification. 12. Brutz English announces newly certified honey judges. 13. UGA's Jennifer Berry (l) and Lewis Bartlett (r) congratulate new Master Beekeeper Rodney Garner.



SEPTEMBER 21 - 23
GAINESVILLE, GA

CONFERENCE RECAP: GBA FALL HONEY & BEESWAX SHOW IN PHOTOS

1. Exhibits are prepared for viewing in the honey show room. 2. Judges review the entries. 3. Some 66 show participants entered at total of 271 exhibits at this year's combined honey, beeswax and artisan show. 4. Entries in the Essay Photography category. 5. Award-winning meads by Michael Minardi. 6. A team of 26 judges, secretaries and stewards worked behind the scenes at this year's show. 7. Judges confer over entries. 8. Sweet treats entered into the always competitive baking categories. 9. Stan O'Bannon's winning painting in the Artwork category. 10. Best in Show winner Larry Clark for his extracted Sour Wood Honey, with show secretary Katie Goodman.



11. Entries in the beeswax block category.
12. Charlie Scott's light extracted honey
deservingly took home a blue ribbon.
13. Karen Miller's first place-winning
beeswax bars.



CONFERENCE RECAP: 2023 GBA FALL HONEY & BEESWAX SHOW **COMPLETE RESULTS**



**BEST
IN SHOW**

Larry Clark

Extracted Sourwood Honey

**SWEEPSTAKES /
GRAND CHAMPION**

Olivia Menard

(59 points)



CONFERENCE RECAP: 2023 GBA FALL HONEY & BEESWAX SHOW COMPLETE RESULTS

Individual Category Winners

Class	Total # of Exhibits	Place	Name
Light Extracted Honey	3	1st Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Charles Scott Angela Wilbanks Olivia Menard
Amber Extracted Honey	12	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Paul Cerpovicz Tara Haines East GA State College Angela Wilbanks Ann Shelton Larry Clark
Dark Extracted Honey	7	2nd	Larry Clark
Novice Extracted Honey	13	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Olivia Menard Stephen Montgomery Cheryl Wolfinger Brandy Gammon David Hollomon Stephen Geer
Commercial Extracted Honey	1	2nd	Olivia Menard
Varietal Extracted Honey	2	2nd 3rd	Stephen Montgomery Trish Tuttle
Sourwood Honey (Extracted)	2	1st Very Highly Commendable	Larry Clark Butch Shelton
Infused Extracted Honey	5	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Angela Wilbanks Butch Shelton Bobbie MacBee's Summer Cordell Julia Manhood
Creamed Honey	6	2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Stephen Montgomery Bobbie MacBee's Summer Cordell Julia Mahood
Flavored Creamed Honey	5	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Stephen Montgomery Butch Shelton Julia Mahood Summer Cordell
Chunk Comb Honey	1	1st	Karen Miller
Section Comb Honey	1	2nd	Angela Wilbanks
Black Jar	38	1st	Ray Jones

Class	Total # of Exhibits	Place	Name
Beeswax Block (1 -2 lbs)	4	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable	Ronnie Brannon Tom Hankins Stephen Montgomery Olivia Menard
Beeswax Block (5-10 lbs.)	1	3rd	Olivia Menard
Beeswax Bars	3	1st 2nd Commendable	Karen Miller Debra Dewitt Olivia Menard
Beeswax Ingots	1	1st	Olivia Menard
Molded Ornamental Candles	1	1st	Debra Dewitt
Sweet Mead	1	1st	Michael Minardi
Dry Mead	2	1st 2nd	Michael Minardi Stephen Montgomery
Varietal	4	1st 2nd Very Highly Commendable	Steve Genta Michael Minardi Stephen Montgomery
Beer / Ale	1	3rd	Michael Minardi
Beverages	5	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna Debera Dewitt Olivia Menard Colette Muhammad Linda Tillman
Cocktails	3	1st 3rd Very Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna Michael Minardi Collette Muhammad
Tradition Cake	2	Highly Commendable Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna Connie Rush
Open Cake	2	Very Highly Commendable Commendable	Danny Harrey Cathy Montpas
Breads	6	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable	Larry Clarck Ken Montgomery Linda Tillman Connie Rush Olivia Menard
Confections	4	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable	Keri Montgomery Cathy Montpas Linda Tillman Summer Cordell
Cookies	4	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable	Linda Tillman Shakiyla Reyna Kari McDowell Keri Montgomery
Preserves	7	1st 2nd 3rd Very Highly Commendable Highly Commendable Commendable	Colette Muhammad Butch Shelton Linda Tillman Tara Haines Debera Dewitt Keri Montgomery

Class	Total # of Exhibits	Place	Name
Condiments	7	1st	Collette Muhammad
		2nd	Debra Dewitt
		3rd	Summer Cordell
		Very Highly Commendable	Dry Rush
		Highly Commendable	Olivia Menard
Spicy Condiments	5	Commendable	Brandy Gammon
		1st	Bobbee MacBee's
		2nd	Mary Mortensen
		3rd	Shakiyla Reyna
		Very Highly Commendable	Brandy Gammon
Artwork	7	Highly Commendable	Colette Muhammad
		1st	Stan O'Bannon
		2nd	Karen Boger
		3rd	Brandy Gammon
		Very Highly Commendable	Denise Roberson
Crafts	6	Highly Commendable	Nancy Rhodes
		Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna
		1 st	Joerg Mayer
		2nd	Dry Rush
		3rd	Karen Boger
Needlecraft	3	Very Highly Commendable	David Hollomon
		Highly Commendable	Shakila Reyna
		Commendable	Collette Muhammad
		1st	Emily Heath
		2nd	Keri Montgomery
Notions & Potions	6	3rd	Linda Tillman
		Very Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna
		1st	Steve Genta
		2nd	Collette Muhammad
		3rd	Wayne Hughes
Lip Balms	8	Very Highly Commendable	Keri Montgomery
		Highly Commendable	Ann Shelton
		Commendable	Wayne Hughes
		1st	Connie Rush
		2nd	Tara Haines
Soaps	4	3rd	Shakiyla Reyna
		Highly Commendable	Summer Cordell
		Commendable	Wayne Hughes
		1st	Colette Muhammad
		3rd	Shakiyla Reyna
Lotions	6	Very Highly Commendable	Ann Shelton
		Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna
		Commendable	Brandy Gammon
		1st	Wayne Hughes
		2nd	Keri Montgomery
Furniture Polish	9	3rd	Colette Muhammad
		Very Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna
		Highly Commendable	David Holloman
		Commendable	Dry Rush
		1st	Summer Cordell

Class	Total # of Exhibits	Place	Name
Open Photography	8	1st	Debra Dewitt
		2nd	Bobbee MacBee's
		3rd	Brandy Gammon
		Very Highly Commendable	Tara Haines
		Highly Commendable	Dana Lowery Bratten
Commendable		Lary Clark	
	1st	Olivia Menard	
	2nd	Debera Dewitt	
Essay Photography	2	1st	Olivia Menard
		2nd	Debera Dewitt
		2nd	Dana Lowery Bratten
		Very Highly Commendable	Bobbee MacBee's
Highly Commendable		Olivia Menard	
	Commendable	Brandy Gammon	
	2nd	Dana Lowery Bratten	
Other Pollinators	6	Very Highly Commendable	Bobbee Macbee's
		Highly Commendable	Olivia Menard
		Commendable	Brandy Gammon
		2nd	Dana Lowery Bratten
Photography - Selected Topic	7	1st	Brandy Gammon
		2nd	Bobbee Macbee's
		3rd	Debra Dewitt
		Very Highly Commendable	Keri Montgomery
		Highly Commendable	John Bratten
Poetry	4	1st	Peter Helfrich
		2nd	Olivia Menard
		3rd	David White
		Very Highly Commendable	Shakiyla Reyna
Electronic Media	3	1st	Bobby Chaisson
		2nd	Peter Helfrich
		Very Highly Commendable	Olivia Menard
Floral Display	3	1st	Keri Montgomery
		2nd	Olivia Menard
		3rd	Karen Boger
Decorative Display	1	1st	Keri Montgomery
Gadgets	5	1st	Ryan Forsman
		2nd	Shakiyla Reyna
		3rd	Dave Miller
		Very Highly Commendable	Steve Genta
		Highly Commendable	Collette Muhammad
Honey Jar Label	4	1st	Bobbee Macbee's
		2nd	Wayne Hughes
		3rd	Tara Haines
		Very Highly Commendable	Olivia Menard
Antiquities	5	1st	Charles Scott
		2nd	Steve Genta
		3rd	Debra Dewitt
		Very Highly Commendable	Larry Clark
Painted Hives	1	Highly Commendable	Angela Wilbanks

Prison Division Winners

Light Extracted Honey	1st	Atlanta Training Center	Photography		
Amber Extracted Honey		1st Hall Correctional Inst.	- Open	1st	Hancock State Prison
		2nd Hancock State Prison	- Black & White	1st	Hancock State Prison
Dark Extracted Honey	1st	Lee Arrendale State	- Other Pollinators	1st	Hancock State Prison
Infused Honey	1st	Lee Arrendale State	- Essay	1st	Hancock State Prison
Black Jar		1st Atlanta Training Center	- Selected Topic	1st	Hancock State Prison
Beeswax Bars	1st	Hancock State Prison	Confections	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Ornamental Candle		1st Hancock State Prison	Painted Hives	1st	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Artwork Related to Beekeeping	1st	Lee Arrendale State		2nd	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Crafts Related to Beekeeping	1st	Lee Arrendale State		3rd	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Honey Jar Label	1st	Hancock State Prison		4th	Lee Arrendale State Prison
Poetry Related to Beekeeping	1st	Hancock State Prison		5th	Lee Arrendale State Prison

Best in Show - Hancock State Prison (Photography)

Honey Show Officials

Presiding Senior Judge: Brutz English

Special International Guest Judge: Michael Badger MBE

Senior Judges: Robert Brewer, Virginia Webb, Jay Parsons, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Kara Bassett, Shery Brousseau

Judges: Nicholas Weaver, Gail Dean, Darek Foti, Nancy Simpson, Rodney Garner, Nancy Deason, Kelley Fredrick

Secretaries: Katie Goodman, Robin Cahill-Roberts, Stephanie Slater, Troy Winters, Anita Curry

Stewards: Tim Hyde, Amy Kaiser, Otto Kaiser, Chris Smith, Erin Olman, Chris Jones



CONFERENCE RECAP: GBA BYLAW CHANGES VOTE PASSES

The September issue of *Spilling the Honey* published the proposed changes to the GBA bylaws put forth by the bylaws committee. The members attending the Fall GBA Conference voted on the proposed changes. The vote passed with a 95% approval to accept the bylaws changes as written on the ballot.

The committee will make the changes and then publish them on the GBA website. The bylaws change committee was chaired by **Jonathan Hayes** and included **Gina Gallucci, Emily Heath, Julia Mahood, Dan Long,** and **Linda Tillman.**

Hive Mind: Is Beekeeping Wrong?

Sam Knight for *The New Yorker*

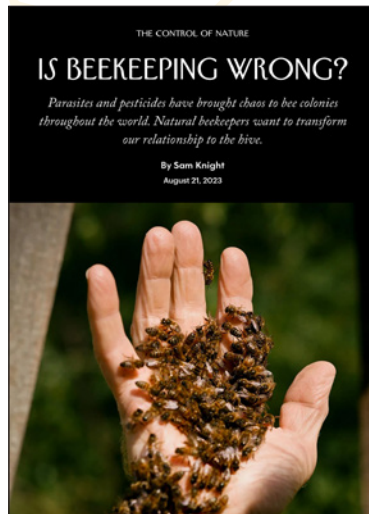
Book review by **David Hinton**

Did you ever think you'd read an article in an influential magazine that suggests that keeping bees is bad for the planet? I never did. So when one appeared I thought I'd better review it for the newsletter.

"Hive Mind: Is Beekeeping Wrong" is the title of an article that appears in the August 28, 2023 issue of *The New Yorker*. While it doesn't have the mass circulation of *People Magazine*, it has an influential subscriber base and it is known for its lengthy articles that dive deeply into the subject matter. It is also famous for its vaunted attempts at accuracy, employing fact checkers who exhaustively review each article seeking corroboration of assertions and claims that go far beyond journalistic CYA. I was once approached by a *New Yorker* fact checker working on an article that involved my area of academic expertise. I agreed to an interview and by the time it was over, I felt as if I had been through a vigorous cross-examination by a criminal prosecutor. As a result, I respect what I read in *The New Yorker* even if I don't necessarily agree.

Written by a London writer Sam Knight, much of the long (six pages) article deals with beekeeping in England, focusing on natural beekeepers, who Knight refers to as "the radical dissenters of Apiculture." They believe that mainstream beekeeping — like most human-centered interactions with the natural world — has lost its way." The article follows Gareth John, a natural beekeeper who keeps hives at an undisclosed location in the English countryside. John is a devotee of "The Principles of Beekeeping Backwards" by Charles Martin Simon, identified as "a quasi-mystical tract published in *Bee Culture* in the summer of 2001." (For more information [click here](#)). Simon became radicalized after 40 years of beekeeping, and came to reject treating for varroa, the use of synthetic foundation frames, and Langstroth hives — to name just a few of his departures.

Gareth John doesn't treat his hives, which are a customized version of the Warre hive, nor does he try to prevent swarming. He further explained that when it comes to harvesting honey, "he harvests only an absolute excess — after the bees have enough for two winters and a wet summer." According to natural beekeepers like John, it is not the four P's (parasites, pathogens, poor nutrition, and pesticides) that are weakening and killing bees, it is



the industrial practices of human intervention followed not only by major corporate beekeepers but also the majority of backyard beekeepers as well.

The article's author clearly sympathizes with the positions of the natural beekeepers. Referring to the practices of conventional beekeeping, "These are all dire interventions in the fabric of the colony. No wonder the bees keep dying," Knight opines. "High death rates tend to lead to more bee imports, more bee medication, more bee supplements, more bee-breeding programs, and the whole unwieldy cycle continues."

Radical natural beekeepers in the English countryside are not the only ones questioning conventional beekeeping practices. As keeper of the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association lending library, I have become acquainted with the books of Cornell University biology Professor Thomas Seeley (*Honeybee Ecology; Honeybee Democracy*) and his groundbreaking research, so I was surprised to see that the article has a lengthy section on Seeley. In an article in *The American Bee Journal* in March 2017, Seeley suggested: "Solutions to the problems of beekeeping and bee health may come most rapidly if we are as attuned to the biologist Charles Darwin as we are to the Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth." You can [read the article here](#).

Comparing the lives of wild bees and those kept by beekeepers in conventional hives, Seeley observes that "The most routine beekeeping activities — taking wax, preventing swarming, even looking inside a hive, constituted profound disturbances for bees."

After reading "Hive Mind: Is Beekeeping Wrong," I'm afraid that my *New Yorker*-reading neighbors might not have the same warm fuzzies toward us beekeepers that they used to. 🐝

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 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.**



Share Your Club’s Upcoming Meeting Plans With Us!

We want to know (and share) what events and activities your local club has planned.

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. Thank you! 🐝



Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
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Julia Mahood	Vice President	<i>vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com</i>	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	<i>secretary@gabeekeeping.com</i>	
Drew Harvey	Treasurer	<i>treasurer@gabeekeeping.com</i>	

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Emily Heath	Southwest Georgia	<i>Emilyheath@windstream.net</i>	478-951-0879
Karen Palmer	Southeast Georgia	<i>honeyplease007@gmail.com</i>	912-678-2144
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Linda Tillman	Past President	<i>pastpresident@gabeekeeping.com</i>	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	<i>jbee@uga.edu</i>	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

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, September 19th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program, *Wax Rendering*, was presented by **Jonathan Hayes** and **Doug Romans**. Jonathan and Doug gave their own preference for rendering wax. Doug presented a PowerPoint with pictures of his process, while Jonathan demonstrated his technique with his equipment.

Jonathan Hayes, Anita Curry, Mike and Kari McDowell and Emily Heath all attended the GBA conference September 21-23 which was held in Gainesville, GA. **Jonathan was named GBA Beekeeper of the Year!** Anita completed her Welsh Honey Judge program and is now a certified Welsh Honey Judge. **Kari** won 3rd in the Honey/Artisan show with her cookies and **Emily** won 1st with her entry in needlecrafts. *HOGBA was well represented!*

Our next meeting will be on Tues., Oct. 17. The program, *Reading Frames*, will be presented by Landi Simone. Mentoring begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! Like us on Facebook or visit hogba.org.



Above L to R: Mike McDowell, Kari McDowell, Anita Curry, Emily Heath and Jonathan Hayes. Below: Jonathan Hayes receives his GBA Beekeeper of the Year awards.



Henry County Beekeepers Club

Interested in learning more about honey bees and beekeeping? Join us on October 28th for our annual Short Course!

Neither experience nor prior knowledge is necessary. This is a teaching workshop designed to send prospective beekeepers home with a ton of new knowledge, new friends, and an up-close and personal experience with actual beekeepers and real bees. **Download the registration form** and mail it, or bring it to our October 17 meeting. This course is ideal for beginners and those who are considering getting started, as well as experienced beekeepers who want to improve or refresh their knowledge. The event will be held at the Farm Bureau Building (Rear Side Door), 117 Racetrack Road, McDonough, GA 30252, 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$25.00. For more info: tombonnell@bellsouth.net or 678-983-7698.



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

With decades of beekeeping experience, **Bob Binnie** (shown presenting below) has great insight about what goes on inside a beehive. He shared what he has learned with the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association at our September meeting. He explained the issues with old comb and the toxic interactions in our colonies. There are many chemicals that our bees come into contact with that by themselves are not harmful, but when combined with others can be lethal. These include the chemicals in the environment as well as the ones beekeepers put in the hives.

Our October 12th meeting will feature the various gadgets and gizmos that beekeepers have come up with. We meet at 6:30 at the Hart County School's AgriScience Center in Hartwell.



Club News

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Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association



Above: MABA president Jimmy Gatt (l) and vice president Peter Helfrich (r) present Ray Jones with his 2023 Beekeeper of the Year award.

In September, MABA staged its annual pot-luck picnic, honey show and auction. **Ray Jones** was named MABA's 2023 Beekeeper of the Year. Congratulations to **Julia Mahood** (Best in Show winner) and **Charlie Scott** (Black Jar winner).

Congratulations to all ribbon winners including **Charlie Scott, Mike Conner, Cathy Shanks, Julia Mahood, Mickey Anderson, Patti Parsons, Linda Tillman, Henry Skoog, Bobby Chaisson, Dave Marshall, Deb Dewitt, Mary Jane Taylor, Peter Helfrich, Chris Reece, and Gina Galucci.**

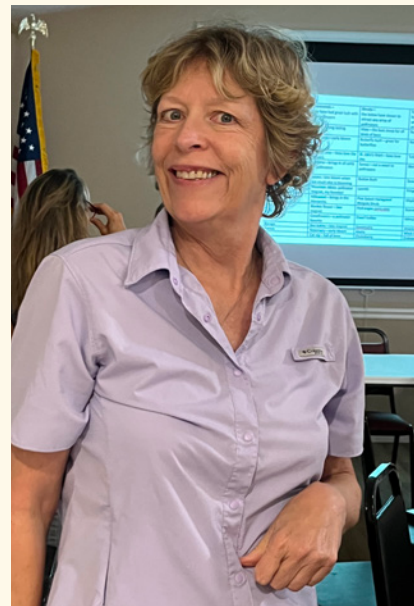
At its October meeting (Tuesday, Oct. 17, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Heritage Hall, 3180 Peachtree Rd, NE, Atlanta), MABA will welcome speaker **Keif Schleifer**, who will be discussing "Guerrilla Gardening for Bees." Mentoring session begins at 6:30 p.m., with meeting/speaker following at 7 p.m. 🐝



Above (clockwise): The MABA 2023 Honey Show judging team of Mike Conner, Claressa Lucas, Mary Cahill-Roberts, Virginia Webb, Brutz English, and Jamie Cahill Roberts. A big turn-out for the pot-luck picnic held at the Galloway School. Justin Schoendorf and his bee crew from Monks Meadery, which served up amazing mead tastings. The bluegrass band Bound to Ramble kept toes tapping all evening.

Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, September 18th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club had the pleasure of hearing UGA's Bee Lab Manager **Jennifer Berry** talk about the results of three years of oxalic acid research trials, and how it can reduce varroa populations. She also gave us a short preview of some great pollinator plants. Jennifer promised to come back and give us the full presentation on Georgia pollinator plants in the coming months. 🐝



Paulding County Beekeepers Association

The Paulding County Beekeepers Association (PCBA) will host a one-day Bee College for people interested in becoming beekeepers, people looking to expand their beekeeping knowledge, and/or people interested in using products from the hive to make crafts. The one-day Bee College will be held on November 11, 2023, at the Chattahoochee Technical College, Paulding (Dallas) Campus.



The Bee College will kick-off with guest speaker **Bob Binnie** (right). Bob is a well-known commercial beekeeper and will be sharing his insight on beekeeping. Participants will be able to select from more than 20 breakout sessions which will cover beginning beekeeping, mead-making, crafting, and advanced beekeeping research topics. There will also be an open question and answer session to ask local experts about any topic.

The cost is \$65 for not-yet members of PCBA. Lunch will be provided, and the first 50 applicants will receive a copy of Dr. Keith Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*.

Complete details on instructors, and breakout sessions, or to enroll visit pauldingbees.com.

Paulding County Beekeepers Association, Inc. is committed to supporting beekeepers in Paulding and surrounding counties by providing education, fellowship, and support. 🐝

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 Beekeepers Club is partnering with **Flint River Fresh** and **Farmer Frado** to promote beekeeping and urban pollinator gardens at the **Sunbelt AG EXPO 2023**, known as North America's premier farm show. The expo takes place in Moultrie, GA on October 17th - 19th. We invite everyone to drop by the Expo's Community Garden and visit with club members and supporters. Look for our new SOWEGA Beekeepers Club trailer (shown below) parked at the Expo Community Garden and enjoy honey tastings, "So You Want to Bee a Beekeeper" presentations, pollinator plant gardens, and pictures with Buzzee, our mascot bee. SOWEGA Beekeepers Club appreciates and continues to grow and thrive in part thanks to support from Georgia Beekeepers Association. 🐝



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

Tara Beekeepers Association

On October 14, 11:00 a.m., Tara Beekeepers will hold its annual Fall Picnic and Black Jar Contest. It will be a day of camaraderie and friendship, food and laughter, and of course a little bee talk. Tara will host a smoker lighting contest, hive lifting contest, and the Black Jar contest for best tasting honey from their association members. If you'd like to come, please bring a covered dish.

LEARN THE BASICS OF BEEKEEPING WITH A ONE DAY COURSE

This backyard beekeeping course is taught by Master and hobbyist beekeepers in a classroom and apiary setting.



Saturday, November 4, 2023, 8:30am-4pm
146 New Street, Decatur GA 30030

To register, contact us at
tarabeekeepers@gmail.com

TARA BEEKEEPERS
SAVING YOU FROM EXTINCTION SINCE 1981.
TARABEEKEEPERS.ORG

Ready to learn the fundamentals of beekeeping? On November 4, Tara Beekeepers Association will offer a **fall beekeeping class for beginners** at their teaching apiary, located at 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Taught by experienced beekeepers, the event will include lessons taught in both classroom and apiary settings. The day-long program will run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. For more information and registration, contact tarabeekeepers@gmail.com



Spilling *The* Honey

NOVEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is our month for giving thanks. I am thankful for all of GBA and our continued growth and health as an organization dedicated to beekeeping and apiary education. Many thanks to all of you who put your time and energy into making us better each month. I am honored to be a part of, and work with such a fine group of people. Many thanks to all who spend their free time making GBA the much-lauded association it is.

Our October license plate committee, chaired by Julia Mahood, awarded a grant to Dr. Lewis Barlett on behalf of the University of Georgia for emergency funding to eradicate the yellow-legged hornet. We are proud to be a part of the solution to this dangerous honey bee predator. For all the details about this important beekeeping menace, [click here](#).

Our legislative committee, chaired by Gail Dean, met recently with Georgia Senator Warnock's representative, Claudia White. Gail, Virginia Webb, and Olivia Menard did a masterful job in presenting GBA's legislative issues and pressing for the Farm Bill. We have follow-ups with Senator Warnock and other lawmakers on the calendar. Those include asking each of our members to contact their representative and our senators. This has been made easy and quick and we hope you will all participate. Watch for details.

Thank you to all who answered our newsletter survey. Some of your feedback, input and ideas have already been implemented into this issue of *Spilling The Honey*.

Happy Thanksgiving! 🍁

- Gina



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 16 & 17, 2024

Please mark your calendars for our Spring 2024 GBA conference in Macon, GA. Our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Jamie Ellis**.



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Newsletter Survey Says...

By Kathy Bourn

GBA member, *this newsletter is for you*. We wanted to hear what you like or dislike about *Spilling the Honey* so we asked you to tell us. The survey that was sent to you gave us a picture of what you wanted from your newsletter.

We've already changed a few things:

- You no longer have to sign into Wild Apricot to read the newsletter. Just clicking on the link will take you straight to it.
- Also, we have added a Table of Contents to the front page with links to each story. This will also appear in the email we send to you. You can immediately read the articles that appeal the most to you.

- We've made easier for you know where to send news, articles and photos. Please note that the email for newsletter submissions has changed. It is now **newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com**

We really appreciate the many members who took the time to answer the survey. We were grateful to find out how much you like about the newsletter. We now know that you would like monthly beekeeping advice for our Georgia region, more information about beekeeping tools and equipment, and enterprising ideas about products from the hive.

We welcome and encourage you to continue to let us know how we can improve anything in your GBA newsletter. 🐝

Your Favorite Tool/Aid in Hive Inspections

Inquiring minds – *and other beekeepers* – want to know your favorite tip or trick.

By Linda Tillman

When you do a hive inspection, what is your favorite helper to make the inspection work well and why? Please write your answer in 100 words or less (we're serious about the word count). This should be a really short answer to write. At the end, give us your name, your bee club and how many years you have kept bees. Send it to **beekeeperlinda@gmail.com**

This is what my 95-word answer would look like:

What helps me most in a hive inspection is using hive drapes. A hive drape is a cloth like a kitchen towel that is tightly woven (a flour-sacking towel). I put these over the hive box when I open it and this keeps the bees calmer. The towel acts like a false top to the hive. The bees are not as stressed because only the frame I am looking at is exposed. I hardly ever use my smoker after an initial puff at the door because the hive drapes are so calming for the bees.

– **Linda Tillman**, MABA, since 2006





How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Drew Harvey

Gail Dean

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.) Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

For those of you who have applied for grants before, you may notice that things look a little different. To better serve you, you will now receive a copy of your application when you submit it! If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.





FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Lake Country Beekeepers Association

By *Mary Lacksen*

On behalf of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association, I want to thank the Georgia Beekeepers Association License Plate Fund for the grant awarded to our bee club this spring.

Two beehives with bees have been installed inside a fenced area at the Sparta Hancock County Library. We are excited about utilizing these hives to engage the community and our bee club members to learn more about bees and beekeeping. The hives at this location will provide easy access to conduct hive demonstrations and bee-related events.

Four full bee suits and gloves are now available for protection for those individuals who want to learn about the inside of a beehive with an experienced beekeeper.

In addition to Lake Country Beekeepers Association's monthly bee meetings, which are held at the library, we held an Intro To Beekeeping Course for the Hancock County 4H Students in July and a World Honey Bee Day celebration in August. The Lake Country Beekeepers Association looks forward to offering many bee-related opportunities in Sparta, Georgia. 🐝



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

By *Peter Helfrich*

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association wishes to thank GBA's License Plate Proceeds Committee for awarding a grant supporting its 2023 Junior Beekeeper programs.

MABA held four day-long programs this year, introducing 60 children, ages six through 13, to wonderful world of honey bees and beekeeping. Each session features an overview of how honey bees live and why they're important; a show and tell time featuring beekeeping equipment and hive products; a frame building craft; suiting up and opening a hive of bees; and extracting honey from frames. The events were held in Decatur, Marietta, Buckhead and Alpharetta.

Grant money helped MABA cover materials costs associated with presenting these programs, including: printing of promotional handouts; purchase of the unassembled deep hive frames, nails and wood glue; plus honey bear bottles and fun, educational materials for take-home goody bags. 🐝



MABA's Junior Beekeepers program was featured in a video segment produced by local news reporter Lee Patrick Sullivan of **Neighborhood TV - North Metro Atlanta**. We had a great time speaking with him as we introduced kids to the amazing world of honey bees. **Stream the video here.**





2023 BEE EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees is thrilled to introduce a new annual grant opportunity. This grant will vary in its specific target from year to year, with the goal of supporting the advancement of research that supports the beekeeping industry. The 2023 grant will provide funds to institutions involved in beekeeping research, training, extension, and/or outreach to increase their capacity via the purchase of new equipment or improvements to their infrastructure.

Eligible institutions: Academic institutions and non-profit organizations.

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

Page 1:

- 1) Title describing equipment/infrastructure type and location.
- 2) Description of equipment/infrastructure and needs.
- 3) Impact of equipment/infrastructure on research, training, extension, and/or outreach relating to beekeeping.

Page 2:

- 4) Budget and brief justification.

The maximum budget is \$10,000 and there is no minimum.

** Optional: Up to two letters of support from beekeepers or beekeeping organizations.*

DUE DATE AND PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals for 2023 should be submitted as a single PDF document to the American Beekeeping Federation by November 17, 2023. abfnet.org@gmail.com. Submissions will be evaluated by the Foundation Board and judged according to need and impact. Decisions will be announced at the 2024 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in New

Orleans (January 9-13, 2024). Funds will be available anytime thereafter but must be used by December 15, 2024.

** Please be aware a 1099 form may be required for recipients of funding depending on the organization's tax status. Institutional allowances or indirect fees are not allowed for this equipment grant.*

WANTED: OLD COMB

By Elizabeth Mackey

Dr. Karyn Bischoff, a population medicine and diagnostic sciences researcher at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, is doing toxicology studies on old beeswax. She is looking for comb samples – as dark as possible! She needs about 100 cells per sample. There is no charge to test the comb.

Samples can be shipped to her, or I am happy to ship them for beekeepers who bring them to an Oglethorpe County Beekeepers or Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers meeting. Please seal your samples in a ziplock bag and label it with your name, email, and the location of the hive. Send to:

ATTN: Karyn Bischoff
Animal Health Diagnostic Lab
240 Farrier Road, Ithaca, NY 14853

For more information, contact: elizmackey@aol.com

Telling the Bees: **Russell Evans**

By James Harris

It is with heavy heart that I write that **Russell Evans**, President of the Beekeepers of Gilmer County has passed away. Russell had more than 40 years as a beekeeper and taught all of us in the club, as well as visitors to our apiary every Saturday, about bees and beekeeping. He brought new members into the club with his mild mannered ways. Prior members rejoined because of the direction Russell was taking the club.

Russell will sorely be missed, not just by club members but by anyone who knew him. He has gone to a much better place. As per his wishes, Russell will be cremated and a memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 4th at 11:00 a.m. at the Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church.

To read Russell's full obituary, click here.



🐝 Plants for Bees: Asters 🐝

By Kathy Bourn

When the rest of your garden or yard is looking gray and dull, it's great to see the splash of color coming from asters. Asters not only thrive in the transitional weather, but they are easy to grow and care for. There are more than 600 species of asters (90 in North America) and they come in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and shapes.

The New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) is a native perennial in the eastern U.S. It is seen along roadsides and ditches because it easily grows in moist areas with full sun. It has become a popular landscape flower for gardeners wanting pollinator-friendly species.

Asters service various pollinators including bumblebees, miner bees, butterflies, and our hungry honey bees. The flowers range from bright purple to pink with yellow centers.

If you see your bees coming back to the hive with golden-colored pollen, it's likely they have been working asters. The nectar quality varies but it is attractive to the bees since there is little else out there for them. The aster honey by itself can be very light, almost white, but it is usually mixed with other fall sources like goldenrod. (Beekeepers can sometimes catch a strong, unpleasant smell coming from their colonies this time of year due to goldenrod nectar.)

Even if you only have planting room the size of a planter, you can have the fall color of asters. Some varieties for small places include Whitewood Aster, Blue Aster and Fendler's Aster. Asters will reseed and can become a little invasive but they also fill in a border nicely.

The sad part of seeing asters bloom, if you want to look at it that way, is it's an indicator that the bee foraging season is coming to an end. But look at it another way... *there is always next spring.* 🍯



Winter Beekeeping

By *Linda Tillman*

For the beekeeper, winter beekeeping in Georgia has many versions. Like any other question one might ask a beekeeper, there are numerous answers about how to keep bees in winter.

Some people stop feeding their hives in September and just hope for the best until the bees start becoming more active in the spring. Other people remain active with their hives through October. By the end of October, they have combined weak hives with stronger hives and feel confident that their apiary yards are in good shape.

Master Beekeeper and President of TriCounty, Bobby Chaisson is one of those latter beekeepers. When I spoke to Bobby on October 23, he had just done a removal of a rather weak colony from someone's house. His plan was to combine that removal colony with a strong hive in his beeyard to go through the winter. By the end of October, he has strong colonies through consolidating and combining. Once November arrives, he rarely opens a hive. "I don't want to stress them by opening them up and breaking their seals. Good colonies generally live through the winter."

George Andl, a MABA member who keeps bees in Virginia Highlands, found that his colonies never lived through the winter. He was at a loss to determine what to do. George is a scientist in real life, so he reads and researches avidly to find scientific answers for his bee issues. He keeps a blog online called: ***Bee Surprised***. In 2010, he decided to try approaching winter with a bee cozy on each hive. In Atlanta we are told that it doesn't get cold enough to justify wrapping hives, but this has worked beautifully for George who has used the bee cozy now for many Atlanta winters.

George wraps each hive in a bee cozy (you can find these at most of the big bee companies - Dadant, Mann Lake, Betterbee). In addition to the wraps, George puts insulation on the top of the inner cover beneath the telescoping cover of his hive. While his hives tend to live through the winters now, he does have some

condensation in the hives.

But George doesn't stop there. He actively checks on his hives during the winter days. He doesn't open the hives, but on the coldest days (when it is below 40), he measures the hive respiration temperature at the inner cover vent. His charting from each year can be found on his blog. He has noticed that typically in the last days of December, the hive respiration temperature increases and the hive weight decreases dramatically, consistent with late winter brood rearing.

George was very interested in Theresa Martin's presentations on monitoring hives through temperature measurement at GBA's fall conference. In addition, he has also been influenced by Steve Page's Coweta Method. **Steve's measurements show a similar dramatic decrease in hive weight** in late December.

Last Christmas, when the temperatures in much of Georgia were in the single digits on Christmas day and thereafter, many beekeepers covered their hives with some version of insulation. I threw an old quilt over mine and several blankets. I have ordered bee cozies for my hives for this winter. And this year, inspired by Theresa Martin, I will be measuring the internal temperatures of my hives and hoping to learn more about what my bees are doing than I have in past winters.

Even if you don't make a radical change in your winter beekeeping, consider going outside to see if the bees are flying if the temperature is above 50. Do they appear to be making bathroom runs or are they bringing in pollen (in Georgia we have available pollen every single month)? Have you tried listening to your hive with a stethoscope or using a FLIR camera to see where the cluster is located?

How will you approach your winter beekeeping?

If you'd like to let me know so I can report in our December issue, **please click here** and fill out a one-question questionnaire. 🐝



Thermometer George uses to check the hive temperature during the winter.



George Andl's hives wrapped for winter. These are two hives with a cloake board in between.

Word Find Buzzle

Winter Beekeeping

By *Linda Tillman*

Now that you've read the article on the previous page about keeping bees through winter, see how many of the words listed at the bottom of the page you can find hidden below in this month's "buzzle."

D C O N S O L I D A T I O N E
D F Q Y W I N G S W O R K E R
I O A Z P N W F E E D I N G W
C N N J O S I A R F M N P W E
O D A I O U N D U P I W J N V
N A I E P L T E T Q U F O B I
D N C C R A E A S Q H R T N H
E T I N E T R T I W T A Y Y S
N H T A D I T H O R L O S S R
S E R R U O S Q M U U K E R S
A C O T C N O C F A T B O D Y
T I M N E F P O L L E N P X Q
I O M E R A I N E E U Q S X R
O E L A C S M B R O O D A A Y
N C F F H O N E Y F L Y I N G

BROOD
CONDENSATION
CONSOLIDATION
DEATH
ENTRANCE
FATBODY
FEEDING

FIFTY
FLYING
FONDANT
HIVE
HONEY
ICE
INSULATION

LOSS
MOISTURE
MORTICIAN
POLLEN
POOP
QUEEN
REDUCER

SCALE
SNOW
SYRUP
WINGS
WINTER
WORKER

TOUR OF HIVES: Steve Page's Apiary

By *Kathy Bourn*

Years ago, I was introduced to Steve Page through his "It's Time To" emails. He was president of the Coweta Beekeepers Association at the time, and these monthly messages outlined things beekeepers should consider doing based on the time of year. It was formulated for Coweta County, Georgia, but it reached beekeepers far outside that area. His emails were very helpful and reassuring to me as a new beekeeper.

That is exactly how I describe Steve, helpful and reassuring. He and his wife Vickie live in Sharpsburg Georgia, about 45 minutes southwest of Atlanta. He is now a retired commercial pilot and gets in a lot of traveling but he still keeps his eyes on 70 to 100 honey bee colonies. Steve started beekeeping in 2007 and has

since built up those hive numbers into a very successful sideliner bee business, Barrington Farms Apiary.

Steve has seven bee yards on other people's property. Twelve of his hives are at the Country Gardens Family Farm in Newnan. Mike and Judy Cunningham raise cattle, pigs, and chickens but leave the bee-raising to Steve. They have a wonderful little market where you can buy fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, and milk along with Steve's honey and wax. He sells 90% of his products wholesale and provides the farm with a regular supply of 2 lb. and 12 oz. jars of honey along with wax blocks and candles. In 2022, he sold 2,000 pounds of honey and has produced more than 14,000 lbs. in the last 10 years.

Continued on next page >



Since 2007, Steve Page has built his Barrington Farms Apiary into a successful sideliner business. He has seven bee yards on other people's property. Insets: Twelve of Steve's hives are at the Country Gardens Family Farm in Newnan, GA, where he sells honey and wax products.

TOUR OF HIVES: Steven Page's Apiary (continued)

Back at home, Steve built a very efficient certified honey house in 2010. He has a 20-frame extractor, a 25-gallon double-walled bottling tank, along with a very clever candle spinner. Two sets of molds spin on pedestals and allow Steve to quickly pour 32 tapered candles. His wax melting technique uses vinegar (1 qt. per 9 gals.) in his melter to acidify the wax and then filters it using Duda diesel filters.

When it comes to his beekeeping philosophy, Steve has strategies that have worked very well for him. When he started, he heard a talk from Master Craftsman Beekeeper Bill Owens that convinced him to refrain from treating his bees with miticides. So he has not treated his hives since the fall of 2007 and over the last two winters has had a loss of about 20%. Steve likes using one 10-frame deep and then shallows. For the winter, he will put an empty shallow on the bottom as a wind buffer. He uses both screened and solid bottom boards and likes plastic foundation for the time-saving it provides. He tries to rotate out his brood comb every five years. His beeyard record keeping consists of hive-top markings and the direction of a brick placed on top of the hive indicates the colony status.

Steve Page does have a few beekeeping tricks up the sleeves of his bee jacket. He makes a point of leaving any fire ant mounds in his apiaries because he discovered that they will eat the sugar ants. He also built an award-winning syrup mixer. It uses a 55-gallon barrel and a sump pump that not only mixes the sugar and water but then, with a flip of a valve, transfers the syrup out of the barrel to containers.

Steve continues to be helpful and reassuring to new beekeepers by providing information and answering questions at the Coweta Beekeepers mentoring sessions. So if you're looking for a guide to sustainable, profitable, and enjoyable beekeeping, look to Steve Page. 🐝



Above (top to bottom): Steve's Barrington Farms Apiary consists of seven bee yards on other people's property. Steve evaluates wax at his honey house. Steve is a helpful resource to other beekeepers and a frequent speaker at club meetings.



Steve is a wealth of beekeeping knowledge, tricks and tips. Above (clockwise): Fire ant mounds left near hives help to deter sugar ants. Notes written on the hive tops and the placement of a brick help Steve know the status of each colony. Steve is an innovator and has developed many gadgets helpful to running his apiary, including a syrup mixing system pairing a 55-gallon barrel with a sump pump. For winter, Steve places an empty shallow beneath his brood boxes as a wind buffer.



CONFERENCE RECAP: COOKIE RECIPES

We will publish cookie recipes from the GBA Fall Conference Friday snack break in upcoming editions of *Spilling The Honey*. Try them, you'll like them!



Lemon Honey Shortbread Cookies

Becky Long | Inspired by beekeeperskitchen.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Cup Butter Room Temperature
 - 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
 - 1/3 Cup Honey, additional for glazing
 - 1/4 Tsp Kosher Salt (more if using unsalted butter)
 - 1 Tbsp Lemon Zest (Instead of lemon zest you can use: 1 Tsp Cinnamon or Cardamom)
 - 2 1/4 Cups All-purpose Flour, additional for consistency and rolling
1. In a stand mixer with a paddle attachment, cream together the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy.
 2. Cream the honey into the other ingredients until combined.
 3. Add zest and salt and mix.
 4. Slowly add 2 1/4 cups flour a half cup at a time and mix until blended. Do not overmix. Consistency should be similar to soft play dough. Add small amounts of additional flour if needed to reach this consistency.
 5. Wrap cookie dough and chill in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.
 6. Preheat oven to 325°. Prepare baking sheets with silicone mats or parchment paper.
 7. On a floured surface, roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Use a circle cutter smaller than your cookie stamp or roll thinner and use regular cookie cutters.
 8. If using a cookie stamp, firmly yet gently press impression into the cookie. Flowering the top of the cookie before stamping is helpful.
 9. Bake for about 10 minutes, until dry on top but not browned.
 10. Cool and remove cookies to a wire rack.

GLAZE:

Mix honey, lemon juice and a little vanilla. Add powdered sugar until the mixture can be spread as a thin glaze but isn't too wet so it will harden. You can also use any royal icing or glaze recipe.



Above: This is the cookie stamp that Becky used for these cookies.

Honey Show Results Corrections

There were several clerical errors contained in the previously published results of GBA's 2023 Fall Honey Show. Corrected winners are:

Selected Topic Photography class:

- 1st Place – **Bobbee MacBees**
- 2nd Place – **Debra Dewitt**
- 3rd Place – **Tara Haines**

Electronic Media class:

- 1st Place – **Bobby Chaisson**

Apologies for any confusion or inconvenience caused.



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: Honey Warming Box

by **Kathy Bourn**

"It isn't much good having anything exciting, if you can't share it with somebody." – Winnie the Pooh

Beekeepers often have exciting ideas to share. Case in point, Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association president **Kevin McCraney** had a problem. He had crystalized honey that was in plastic jars with labels already on them. He couldn't put them in warm water, so he came up with a clever honey warming solution and shared it at LHBA's gadgets and gizmos meeting last month.

LHBA member **Dave Miller** was at that meeting and quickly put Kevin's idea to use with a few twists of his own. Dave writes, *"I liked Kevin's heater very much. I had a bucket of honey I needed to bottle, so I copied his heater quickly. I used my*

bucket tilter with a light, dimmer switch and corrugated box. I happened to have a double wall corrugated box that was about the right size. I put an extra layer of corrugated in the bottom (or top) and taped the cracks up with packing tape. It worked better than I imagined. I used a 100-watt bulb (incandescent, not LED) but turned it down to about half power when it got to 110 degrees F. Note the meat thermometer in the top off box. The outside top of the box didn't seem hot at all!" 🐝

Do you have a beekeeping idea to share?

Please send us your submissions for our *Beekeeper's Workbench* column to newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com



Inspired by a presentation at his local club's monthly meeting, Dave Miller crafted this simple but effective honey warming box.



A dimmer switch allows Dave to regulate the put out by the 100-watt bulb, and a meat thermometer helps him monitor the temperature inside the warming chamber.



The Backyard Beekeeper

Kim Flottum

Book review by **David Hinton**

Go to the Mann Lake catalog and look at their New-Bee Beginner Beekeeping Starter Kit and you'll see it has everything you need to start beekeeping: hive bodies, frames, hive tool, and bottom board. You name it, it's there... except for the most important item: *knowledge*, in the form of a good "introduction to beekeeping" book. In fact, every beekeeper – whether a beginner or a veteran beekeeper – should have a good beekeeping reference book.

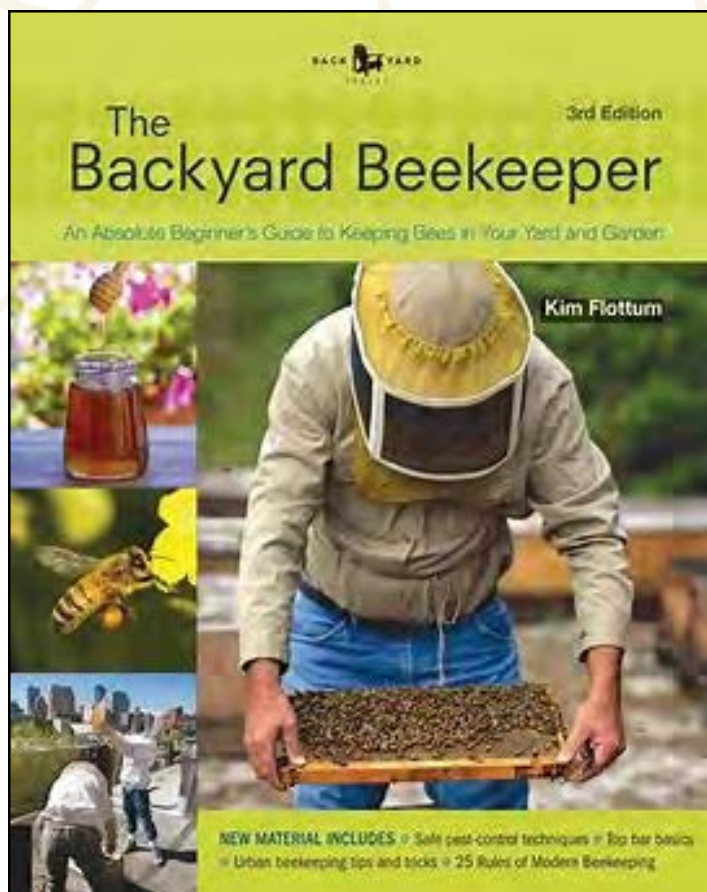
Over the years, I have met a number of beginning beekeepers starting off with the "newbie" kit and that's all – no mentor, no previous knowledge, etc. And in talking with them, it obviously never occurred to them to get a good book to guide them in getting started. *Another example of America getting out of the reading habit!* I just knew that their efforts were going to crash and burn.

There are a number of such good guide books already in print: *Beekeeping for Dummies* by Howland Blackiston is surprisingly good (Though I always have trouble getting past the title; afterall, who wants to think of themselves as a dummy?); *Natural Beekeeping* by Ross Conrad; *The Beginner's Guide to Beekeeping* by Samantha and Daniel Johnson. Now add to that list this month's book review selection: *The Backyard Beekeeper* by Kim Flottum.

What makes a good beekeeping guidebook? To me, the criteria are simple:

- (1) it is comprehensive, covering "everything you need to know" to start and continue as an active, successful beekeeper;
- (2) it is easy to read and understand, even for those like me without a scientific orientation; and
- (3) it is full of helpful illustrations to aid in understanding. All of the books above meet the criteria, and *The Backyard Beekeeper* has exceptional illustrations throughout.

Flottum's book sets itself apart in the marketplace by its title: *The Backyard Beekeeper: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden*, obviously aiming at the rookie urban/suburban hobbyist. There is even a section on "Extreme Urban Beekeeping," with sections on increased regulations and inspections, colony growth, swarms in the city, and "up high on the roof."



But despite its title, it is really just chapter one that deals with urban beekeeping, with the remaining chapters closely resembling all the other books in the field. 🐝

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.



Club News

Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association

The Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Association held its annual fall picnic on Sunday, October 1, 2023. There was lots of good food, a black jar honey contest, and a smoker contest (see photos below). **Joy Wallace** won both contests.



The Chattahoochee Valley Down Syndrome Association hosted the "Down with my Chromies" event on Saturday, October 14 from 11:00-3:00 at Hill Field, Lakebottom Park (see photos below). The CBA was there with a table to share knowledge about the honey bee. There were informative posters, equipment, and an observation hive for participants to see and learn about the bees. 🐝



Coweta Beekeepers Association

Our Coweta Beekeepers Association had another successful booth at the Coweta Kiwanis Fair! It makes it so easy when our members volunteer to talk about our club. Thank you to everyone who filled a slot and our VP **Corey Matheson** for providing the observation hive. It's always a hit! I saw some great entries, and we even had a wax block submission from **Alex Rogers**.

Also had a great fall conference up in Gainesville with some wonderful CBA members in attendance and some new members looking to join our club. 🐝



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, October 17th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program, *Reading the Frames*, was presented via Zoom by **Landi Simone** (shown at right). It was an interesting and informative presentation with examples of frames and the attendees were asked what each frame represented. Landi answered question after her presentation.



Our November meeting will be on the 28th instead of the 21st (conflicts during the Thanksgiving holiday). **Joe Money** will be presenting a program on *How To Make Creamed Honey*. HOGBA will also be having their annual honey black jar contest. Who will win bragging rights for the best tasting honey among the HOGBA members? Mentoring begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! Like us on Facebook or visit hogba.org. 🐝

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Beekeepers love their gadgets and gizmos and the members of the Lake Hartwell club had the chance to show theirs off. The show and tell included **Kevin McCraney's** honey warmer, **Daniel Tompkin's** bee vacuum and **Dave Miller's** multi-hive varroa tester.

Join us on November 2 for a presentation by **David Hollomon** on *How To Organize Your Beekeeping Equipment*. We meet at the Hart County AgriScience Center at 7 p.m. 🐝



Club News

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Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, October 16, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club presented a three-member panel who discussed their experiences with beekeeping over the years, with an emphasis on how their 2023 year went. **Elizabeth Gingle**, **Cory Momany**, and **Mary Lacksen** (pictured) together represented a range of 12 to 43 years experience, and seven to 100 colonies! Some great tips were presented, and members asked pertinent questions. **Joe Conti** moderated. 🐝



SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club partnered with **Flint River Fresh**, of Albany, and **Farmer Frado** at the agricultural expo in Moultrie, Georgia where there were many, many exhibitors. The October weather was so very inviting and the pollinator garden was in bloom as thousands of visitors interacted with members of our club at the community event. Eight enthusiastic bee club volunteers shared bee knowledge, described pollinator garden plantings and led some 1,500 visitors in a honey tasting. SOWEGA Beekeepers Club's first appearance at EXPO was a big, big success. 🐝



Paulding County Beekeepers Association

The Paulding County Beekeepers Association (PCBA) will host a one-day Bee College for people interested in becoming beekeepers, people looking to expand their beekeeping knowledge, and/or people interested in using products from the hive to make crafts. The one-day Bee College will be held on November 11, 2023, at the Chattahoochee Technical College, Paulding (Dallas) Campus.



The Bee College will kick-off with guest speaker **Bob Binnie** (right). Bob is a well-known commercial beekeeper and will be sharing his insight on beekeeping. Participants will be able to select from more than 20 breakout sessions which will cover beginning beekeeping, mead-making, crafting, and advanced beekeeping research topics. There will also be an open question and answer session to ask local experts about any topic.

The cost is \$65 for not-yet members of PCBA. Lunch will be provided, and the first 50 applicants will receive a copy of Dr. Keith Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*.

Complete details on instructors, and breakout sessions, or to enroll visit pauldingbees.com.

Paulding County Beekeepers Association, Inc. is committed to supporting beekeepers in Paulding and surrounding counties by providing education, fellowship, and support. 🐝

Tara Beekeepers Association

Ready to learn the fundamentals of beekeeping? On November 4, Tara Beekeepers Association will off a **fall beekeeping class for beginners** at their teaching apiary, located at 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Taught by experienced beekeepers, the event will include lessons taught in both classroom and apiary settings. The day-long program will run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. For more information and registration, contact tarabeekeepers@gmail.com

Troup County Association of Beekeepers

Our October Honey Tasting Contest was a blast with 15 entries. **Phillip and Kim Benefield** won overall best-tasting honey and received a hand-crafted honey dipper made by **Jeff Hollis** at Long Cane Custom Calls. Officer elections were held for 2024, with **Frank Smith** being elected president, **Jim Bradfield** as vice president, **Tara Haines** as secretary, **Kim Benefield** as treasurer, and **Daryl Burton** as program coordinator. Congratulations to **Frank Smith** and **Tara Haines** became Certified Beekeepers at the 2023 GBA Fall Conference. 🐝



SAVE THE DATE

American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow

January 9–12, 2024

New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130



Your GBA Officers, Directors & Board Members

OFFICERS	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Gina Gallucci	President	president@gabeekeeping.com	404-519-4141
Julia Mahood	Vice President	vicepresident@gabeekeeping.com	678-448-2576
Mark Shields	Secretary	secretary@gabeekeeping.com	
Drew Harvey	Treasurer	treasurer@gabeekeeping.com	706-476-7089

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Ray Jones	Northwest Georgia	jonesrayn@gmail.com	770-598-6671

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Linda Tillman	Past President	pastpresident@gabeekeeping.com	404-447-1943
Jennifer Berry	Ex-Officio Director	jbee@uga.edu	706-247-2575





Spilling *The* Honey

DECEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the season of gratitude and gift giving. Some of my favorite gifts over the years have been bee-related and they are in every room of my house. This year, you can share the gift of honey bees with someone you care about by giving a beekeeping short course or a GBA *Save the Honey Bee* license plate.

This time of year also brings changes to leadership in many local bee clubs throughout Georgia. Welcome to all of the new officers! We wish you the best and want you to know that our directors are here to help you. Let them know what you need to help make your volunteer time both fun and productive. You can find all of your GBA officers and directors contact info **at our website** and **page 17** of this newsletter.

Our GBA conference planning committee is hard at work preparing for our next gathering scheduled for February 16th and 17th in Macon, Georgia. Again this spring, we will meet at Middle Georgia State University and enjoy the Hatcher Conference Center. This year's Honey Show will be a *teaching* honey show. Read more about this on **page 11**. Please be on the lookout for registration to open soon.

In this issue of our newsletter you can find a list of the newest Georgia Master Beekeepers. We also have a new addition to the newsletter called Where's Waggle.

I wish you all the happiest of happy holidays and a beautiful new year! 🍯

- *Gina*



GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

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Starting this month, *Spilling The Honey* is putting a beekeeper's spin on the popular **Where's Waldo** picture-puzzle books. GBA now has our own "Where's Waggle?"

Just as the bees have to pay attention to the waggle dance in the hive, we invite you to try to spot Waggle hidden in each issue of GBA's newsletter (not the picture at left!). **Let us know where you discover Waggle by clicking here.** We will do a random drawing of all the correct answers and award a beekeeping-themed prize to the winner of the drawing.



How to apply for GBA License Plate Funds

The best way to fund your club projects, research interests, or educational programs is through the GBA license plate grant program. A few examples of what beekeepers have used this funding for:

- Beekeeping short course materials
- Displays for clubs to use at events
- Observations hives
- Research projects
- Participation in the BIP Sentinel Apiary Program
- Club speaker fees
- Books for club libraries
- Educational materials to hand out at honey stands
- Equipment for club apiaries

GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee

Committee Chair Julia Mahood

GBA President Gina Gallucci

Bob Binnie

GBA Treasurer Drew Harvey

Gail Dean

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Katie Goodman

Applying for a license plate grant is easy! **Click here to access the application** and read more about the process. (Note, since grants are only available to current GBA members, you will have to sign in to access the form.)

Please follow the instructions carefully so that your request will not be held up.

If you receive a grant we will ask you for photos of your project (if applicable) so please take and keep lots of pictures. 📷

The Georgia Save The Honey Bee License Plate Bill reads:

40-2-86 (m) (14) A special license plate promoting the conservation and protection of the official insect of this state, the honey bee. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and shall be used to increase public awareness of the importance of the conservation of the honey bee and for funding and supporting numerous 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. Such special license plate shall include the phrase "Save the Honey Bee" in lieu of the county of issuance.



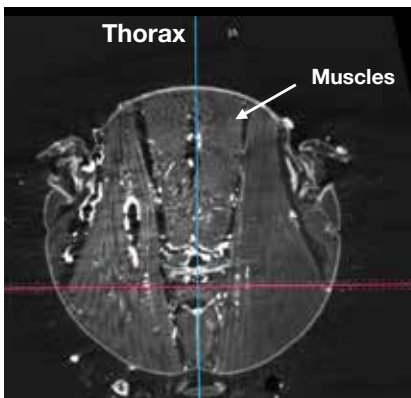
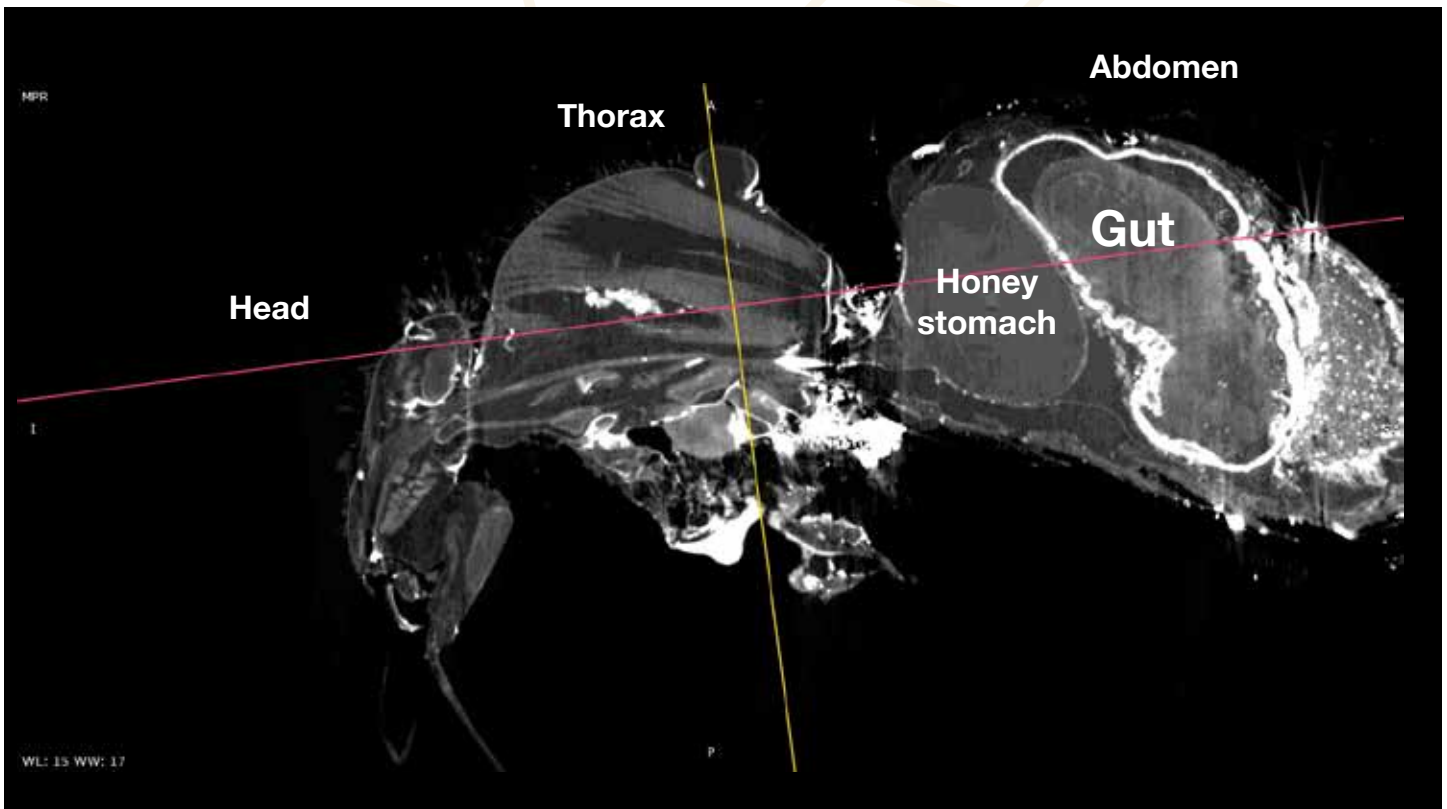


FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

UGA Veterinary School

Dr. **Joerg Mayer** received a grant to explore exceptional imaging on bees, specifically doing CT scans to study their anatomy. This work is being done in cooperation with **Dr. Scott Echols** from the University of Utah, and **Dr. Jessica A. Maisano** from The University of Texas at Austin. Both are pioneers in imaging in that field. The team is still refining their techniques, and now the two bees (imaged below) are traveling to Australia for even more novel and detailed imaging.

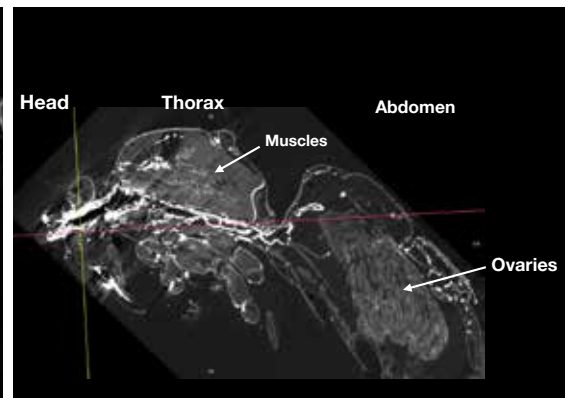
Dr. Mayer is very excited about the images that have already been completed and the ones that will come. 🐝



Cross section of bee thorax



Bee head cross section



A queen bee CT scan

2024 Short Course Guide

Because new beekeepers usually get started with their new hives in the spring, many clubs offer introductory short courses in January and February to give newbies time to order bees and equipment, and prepare a site for their new hobby. **Does your club have a short course coming up in January, February, March (or bee-yond)?** Let us know about it! Send all the details and information to: newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com

JANUARY 20, 2024

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association: Beginners Beekeeping Seminar

Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 9 am - 4 pm

Garden Club of Georgia, Terrace Room, 2450 S. Milledge Ave. Athens, GA 30605

The UGA Bee Lab and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia invite you to join us January 20th for our Beginners Beekeeping Seminar. Jennifer Berry, Dr. Lewis Bartlett and three master beekeepers will cover all you need to know to get started in a full day of presentations. Also included: a copy of *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, lunch and a hands-on inspection with experts in March. This seminar filled quickly last year.

Register today!

**2024 Athens
Beginners Beekeeping Seminar**

In partnership with the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association and the UGA Honey Bee Lab

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Garden Club of Georgia, Terrace Room
Fee: \$65 (includes lunch)

Fee \$65 includes lunch

Beekeeping is a complex and fascinating pursuit with plenty to learn and sweet rewards! If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper yourself, this comprehensive seminar featuring Georgia Master Beekeepers and industry professionals will prepare you to establish and manage a successful apiary. This workshop will guide you through understanding the honey bee as well as the steps to obtain your bees, tools and hives. This program will also cover harvesting, various hive products and how to use them. Participants will also learn about proper care and some of the common challenges facing beekeepers today.

Each participant will receive a box lunch, a copy of *First Lessons in Beekeeping* and a one-year membership to Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association. As a bonus, all participants will have the opportunity to participate in a follow-up, hands-on class at a nearby apiary on March 23, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Program Agenda

- 9-9:15 a.m. **Welcome & Announcements**
State Botanical Garden of Georgia education department
Don Long, president, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association
- 9:15-10 a.m. **An Introduction to Honey Bee Biology**
Lewli Bartlett, PhD, research scientist, entomology & ecology departments, UGA
This talk will cover the basic biology of honey bees. Topics covered in this presentation will include honey bee anatomy, behavior, diet and different types of bees in the hive.
- 10-10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15-11 a.m. **Getting Started: Sourcing Your Bees and Equipment**
Harold Lanier, Georgia master beekeeper
Harold Lanier, Georgia master beekeeper, will discuss how to find and purchase honey bees. Additionally, he will provide an overview of the equipment you will need for yourself and the options available for housing your bees.
- 11-11:15 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. - noon **A Year in The Bee Yard**
Olivia Mumard, Georgia master beekeeper
Georgia master beekeeper, Olivia Mumard, will present an overview of a full year with honey bees. Her annual bee-stress plan includes a month-to-month look at what it takes to keep both bees and their hives healthy in Georgia.
- noon-1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15-2 p.m. **Understanding the Diseases and Pests That Infect and Infest Honey Bees**
Jennifer Berry, research professional and lab manager, UGA Honey Bee Lab
Jennifer Berry will provide an overview of major honey bee disease organisms and pests. Her presentation will also cover management methods to keep your bees healthy and alive.
- 2-2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:15-3 p.m. **The Bounty of The Hive**
Don Long, Georgia master beekeeper
When we keep our bees healthy and strong, they reward us with honey and more. We'll discuss traditional honey harvest and bottling, wax rendering, candle making and some interesting hive products you might not have considered.
- 3-3:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

Register online at <https://t.uga.edu/9xm>



State Botanical Garden
of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



LEARN THE BASICS OF BEEKEEPING WITH A ONE DAY COURSE

This backyard beekeeping course is taught by Master and hobbyist beekeepers in a classroom and apiary setting.



Saturday, January 20, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm

146 New Street, Decatur GA 30030

To register, contact us at
tarabeekeepers@gmail.com

TARA BEEKEEPERS
SAVING YOU FROM EXTINCTION SINCE 1981.
TARABEEKEEPERS.ORG

Tara Beekeepers Association: Basics of Beekeeping One-Day Course

Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Academe of the Oaks, 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030

Ready to learn the fundamentals of beekeeping? On January 20, 2024, Tara Beekeepers Association will offer an introductory beekeeping class at their teaching apiary, located at 146 New Street, Decatur, GA 30030. Taught by experienced beekeepers, the event will include lessons taught in both classroom and apiary settings. The day-long program will run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. For more information and registration, contact tarabeekeepers@gmail.com

JANUARY 27, 2024

Lake Country Beekeepers: Introduction To Beekeeping

Saturday, January 27th, 2024, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Sparta-Hancock County Library, 8984 East Broad Street in Sparta, GA

Our Intro To Beekeeping course offers an overview of everything one needs to consider before keeping honeybees. From honeybee biology to equipment and gear, our course will give you the blueprint you need to plan an exciting life with honeybees. Then in April, we will offer an in-hive experience where you will have the opportunity to inspect a live honey bee colony.

We also recommend, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Dr. Keith Delaplane. This book introduces the prospective beekeeper to the basics of beekeeping through easy-to-understand text and numerous color photos on honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment, management, honey production and processing, as well as disease diagnosis and treatment. Available through the library or for sale at Morgan Apiaries.

Registration is \$25 per person/family (includes one year Lake County Beekeepers Association membership). Children under 16 years of age are FREE but must be accompanied by an adult. To register please contact: Lake Country Beekeepers Association lakecountrybees@gmail.com or Mary Lacksen 478.456.1049

beecoapiaries@gmail.com or Bruce Morgan 478.357.4029
rbmorgan196@gmail.com

Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping from MABA's panel of experts. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about honey bees, even if a hive is not in your immediate future. Since the course takes place in January, our classroom course will not involve live bees. During the spring and summer months, hands-on experience with live bees will be available to all Beekeeping Course students through the MABA Hive Inspection program. Short course participants will receive current information on beekeeping and how to get started, first class presentations by educators in entomology and botany as well as experienced urban beekeepers, a copy of Dr. Keith S. Delaplane's book *First Lessons In Beekeeping*, and a one-year membership to MABA. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There will also be a beekeeping supply vendor onsite. \$110. **Click here to register.**



Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association: Introduction To Beekeeping Short Course

Saturday, January 27th, 2024, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

FEBRUARY 10, 2024

SCAN TO REGISTER

LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED IN BEEKEEPING

\$50 INCLUDES LUNCH, ONE YEAR BEE CLUB MEMBERSHIP, AND COURSE MATERIALS

Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping at the

Tri County Beekeepers

ONE DAY SHORT COURSE

Saturday, February 10
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Mt Carmel Baptist Church

🐝 Plants for Bees: Kanjiro Camellia 🐝

By Kathy Bourn

As leaves brown and fall, the glossy dark green foliage and gorgeous red, pink or white flowers of camellias grab your attention. They also grab the attention of an assortment of pollinators, including our honey bees. Even over-wintering hummingbirds will try for a taste of a camellia's fall nectar. I seem to spend way too much time watching all the activity on the Kanjiro Camellia at the corner of my house. It's great to be able to watch my bees in action this time of year.

Many Camellias provide fall resources for bees, but you want to choose ones with open flowers and well-exposed, pollen-filled stamens, not the peony form. The Kanjiro Camellia (*Camelia sasanqua* "Kanjiro") is a popular choice. The Japanese word *kanjiro* means "you must feel." It debuted in the 1950s and is not native, but don't hold that against it. The *sasanqua* species of camellia blooms in late fall to early winter as opposed to the *japonica* species that blooms in the spring.

Camellias are great for that shady spot in your yard. Most can handle full shade to partial sun in zones seven to 10. The mature size (10 years) for the Kanjiro is six to 10 feet tall and wide. The three- to four-inch blooms have a slight fragrance. The shrub is filled with blooms but each flower only lasts a day or two.

If given the right location, camellias are relatively carefree. I worried that the deer would munch on mine, but they haven't bothered it, perhaps because it's right up against the house. It's best to protect camellias from early morning sun and hot summer afternoon sun. Watering deeply when the plant is young is critical.

Learn more about the wonders of camellias at the **American Camellia Society**. An International Camellia Society "Garden of Excellence" is here in middle Georgia. The **Massee Lane Garden** began as the private garden of Davie Strother in the 1930's. It covers nine acres in Fort Valley, Georgia and was donated to the American Camellia Society in 1966. The garden has one of the world's finest collections of camellias and offers tours and workshops.

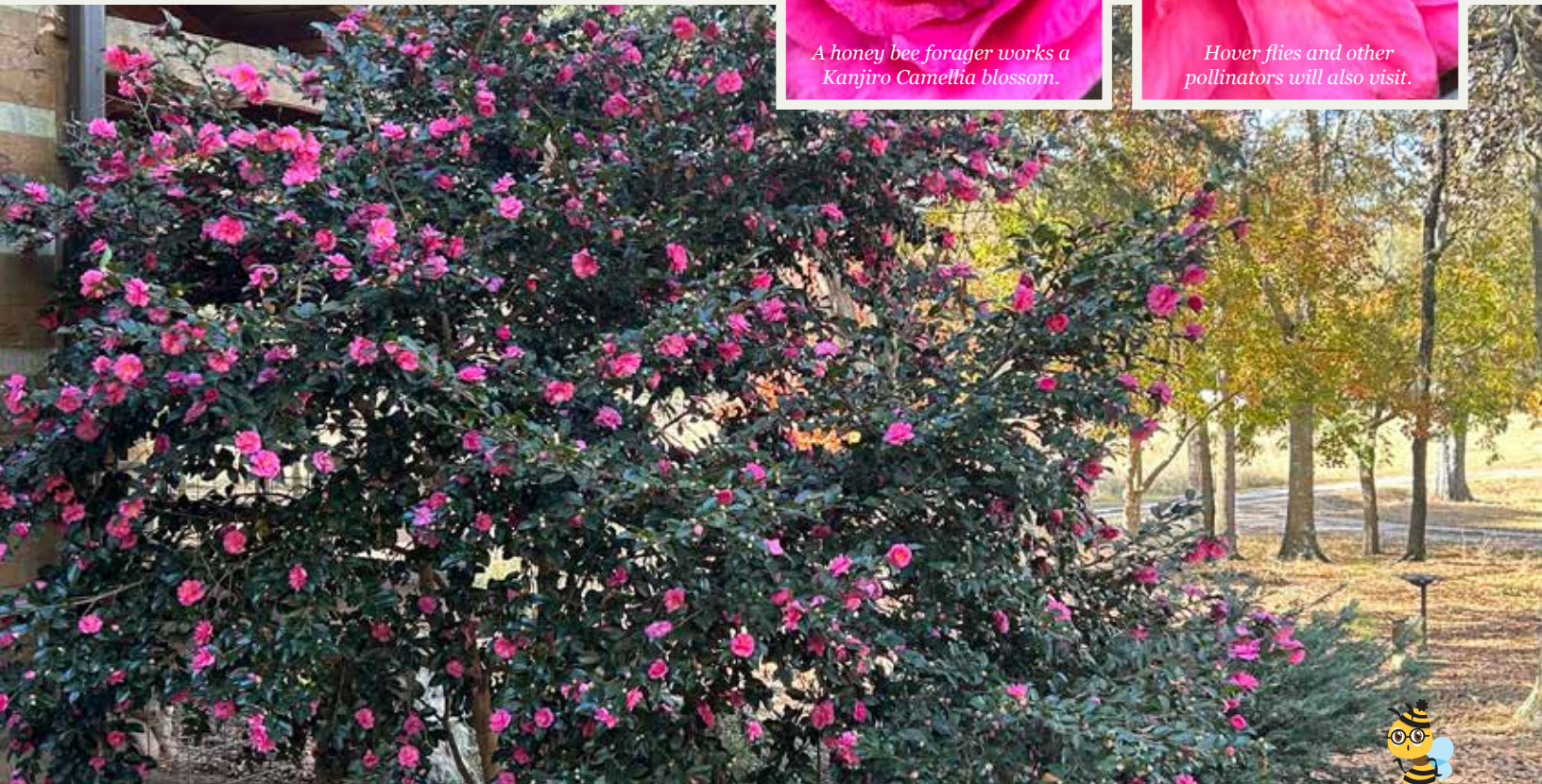
So in the late fall, keep your bees busy foraging, and keep yourself busy watching them foraging on camellias. 🐝



A honey bee forager works a Kanjiro Camellia blossom.



Hover flies and other pollinators will also visit.



BEE

SHORTS



Bee Shorts is *Spilling the Honey's* new monthly series designed to help readers learn more about beekeeping in Georgia, as requested by many of our recent survey responders. A Bee Short is a 100-word answer to a question asked by the newsletter. To participate, see the instructions at the end of this article.



Last month we asked:

What is your favorite tip or trick that you use when you do a hive inspection?

Here are the 100-word answers we received from beekeepers around the state:

Julia Mahood (MABA): I keep a small table in the apiary that I put next to the hive I'm working on that I use to place the telescoping cover on, upside down, then stack the supers on catty-cornered as I take them off. It is easier on my back than putting them on the ground. I find that the inner cover has lots of propolis and will stick to the supers, so after giving it a glance to make sure her majesty isn't on it, I prop it up by the entrance so the workers can climb in if they like.

Dan Long (Eastern Piedmont): Generally, I do what everyone else does on inspections. However, I love the Italian hive tool. Ever since I discovered it, all other tools feel clunky to me. It's long and slender with a little J hook at the end. It's still great for leverage but I found it easier to work around the bees so I don't mash them. The regular J hook tools are too big. This one fits between frames easily. I can also hold it in my hand while lifting a frame with my fingers so I set it down less (*and lose it less!*)



Charlie Scott (MABA): I love my pillow case hive covers. They are just the right size and really add some calmness to my hive inspections. Any chaos caused by my intrusion into the hive is minimized. I can work without feeling rushed since most of the girls remain calm in the darkness of the box under those covers off to the side from where I'm working.

Deb DeWitt (Tara Beekeepers): In general, I sit quietly and observe the bees coming and going before ever opening the hive.

One of my favorite tools for a hive inspection is my phone camera. I use the slo-motion feature regularly to capture video and also take a lot of stills (several of which have won awards in honey shows). The camera is invaluable because it allows me to view cells up close – making it easier to examine eggs and larvae. If I see a questionable cell or suspect disease, I can easily send a pic to one of my peers to get a second opinion.

Bobby Chaisson (TriCounty Beekeepers): I like to have a plan for what I am looking for or going to do to the hive. If I am checking for honey stores, that is all I look for. I don't need to go through the whole box, disturbing the bees. If I want to know how the queen is doing, I don't have to find her. I just need to find signs that she is laying. If I find eggs in cells, I know she has been there in the last three days. Have a plan and don't disrupt the bees more than you have to.

Mary Cahill-Roberts (Tara Beekeepers): I check the weather. If there is a hint of rain, I pick another day. Temp and wind direction are also important. I loosen the cover. After a minute, I take the cover off, leaving the inner cover in place. If the inner cover is tightly propolized, I crack the inner cover but don't remove it. In warmer weather, I leave it on at an angle and give the bees a few minutes. I wait about three minutes before removing the inner cover. Sometimes I will use a cover cloth to keep the bees calm and not expose as many to the outside. 🐝

December Question:

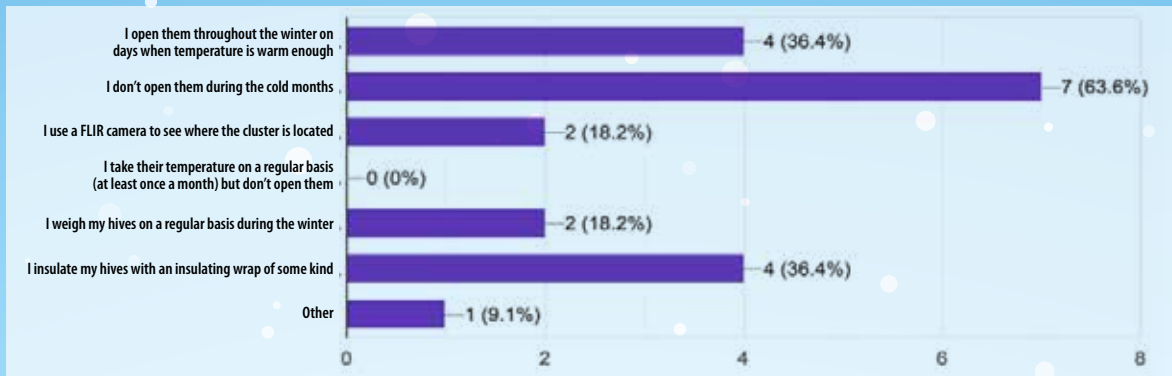
The holiday season is here. In my almost 20 years as a beekeeper, I have been given a lot of bee-themed gifts – coffee mugs, dish towels, t-shirts, even toothpick holders. For January Bee Shorts, we want to know your 100 word answer to the following question:

In your beekeeping life, what is your favorite bee-themed or bee-related gift that you have received and why?

Please send your 100 word paragraph about your favorite gift to beekeeperlinda@gmail.com (we're serious about the word count). And If you happen to have a photo, send that with your paragraph. We'd love to hear from you. – **Linda Tillman**

How Do You Manage Your Hives In Winter?

By Linda Tillman



When we sent out our recent *Spilling the Honey* survey about newsletter readership, many of you said you wanted to know more about your fellow Georgia beekeepers and what they are doing each month. So we'll be asking you to complete future surveys that we think get at the issues for the upcoming month.

Eleven of you responded to our November survey about winter management activities. The results are above. We'd love to learn more about our Georgia beekeepers – how you manage your bees, what your opinions are (you know, ask a beekeeper a question...), etc. So if you'd like to participate by responding to a newsletter survey, we'd be delighted to know what you think.

JANUARY'S SURVEY

Click on the **January survey (at right)** about the number of hives you have going into winter. We'd love to hear from you. 🍯

Form description

Email *

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

We want to know how many hives you have going into winter.

Multiple choice

- 1 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- More than 40

Season's Greetings from the Apiary



Kevin McCraney thought his bees needed a little holiday cheer so he decorated their hives with solar powered lights.



Julia Mahood created this gingerbread hive and the gingerbread beekeeper to go with it.



Telling the Bees: **Jesse Edward McCurdy**

February 17, 1932 – November 16, 2023

Jesse McCurdy began beekeeping at the age of 10 in Albany, GA. He mentored hundreds of beekeepers over the years, including working with Dr. Keith Delaplane at the UGA Beelab.

Jesse has been highlighted in the *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* magazines. He was awarded Lifetime membership in GBA at the GBA Fall Conference in September, 2017.

He and his wife Hazel set up a booth at the very first Georgia National Fair where he had an observation hive and sold honey from his apiary, Ambrosia Apiaries. Jesse loved educating the public about bees. He and Hazel continued the booth every year until last year when his health began to fail.

Jesse was instrumental in the organization of the local bee club, Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association (HOGBA). He was a charter member and the HOGBA Beekeeper of the Year award is named in his honor. At every meeting there was time set aside for “Jesse and his two cents.” He was a wealth of knowledge. At his funeral it was said that Jesse had forgotten more about beekeeping than most people knew. Jesse was a kind, gentle spirited, God-loving southern gentleman. “The Bee Man” will be missed.

Read Jesse’s full obituary here:

watsonhunt.com/obituaries/Jesse-McCurdy/#!/Obituary



“The Bee Man” Jesse McCurdy



Former President Jimmy Carter visiting Jesse’s booth at the fair.

Master Beekeeper Program Testing Results

By Jennifer Berry

Due to the closing of the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute last year, we have moved the Georgia Master Beekeeper Program to the Fall GBA Meeting. Thanks to the GBA for hosting the training and certifications this year. The certified, journeyman and master training and exams were held on Thursday, September 21st with certified practical exams continuing on Friday.

We are proud to announce that *all* those who took the certified exam passed this year. *This is the first year we had a 100% passing rate!* Congratulations to those who passed the certified exam, both practical and written.

We have five new beekeepers who have advanced to journeyman, and one

to master.

New Georgia Journeyman Beekeepers:

- Susanna Capelouto
- Millie Reeves
- Sharon Kuhn
- Georgia P. Zumwalt
- Karen Miller

New Georgia Master Beekeeper:

- Rodney Garner

We are so proud of all our new Certified, Journeyman and Master beekeepers. *Great job!* 🐝

Photos at right: Top: UGA’s Jennifer Berry (l) and Dr. Lewis Bartlett (r) congratulate new Master Beekeeper Rodney Garner. Bottom: A group photo of this year’s proud new Certified Beekeepers.



In our recent newsletter survey, you said that you wanted to see more timely beekeeping advice included in each issue of Spilling the Honey. To that end, each month **Steven Page**, well-known member of Coweta Beekeepers, will provide suggestions on what beekeepers should be thinking about at particular times of the year.

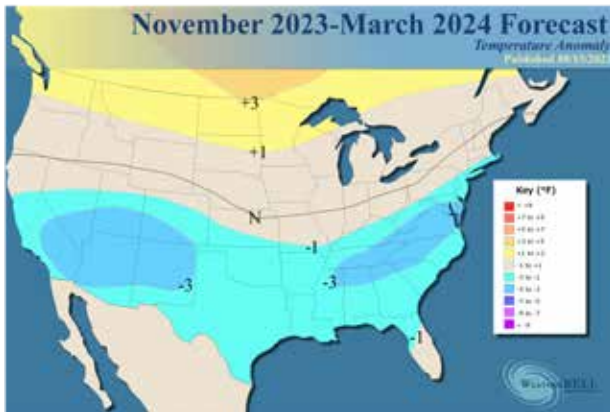


IT'S TIME TO... *Rest And Prepare*

By **Steven Page**

Author's Note: All beekeeping is local. This article's dates to perform certain tasks and other recommendations are for the Piedmont of Georgia; your dates and recommendations will differ if you are in the coastal plain or the mountains.

Welcome to December, when our colonies hunker down, eat honey, generate heat, and try to survive the winter. This winter should be more typical than last winter, with above-normal precipitation and below-normal temperatures compared to average. Last January through April was warmer than average, with plants about a month ahead of typical bloom dates until six mornings of mid 20°F temperatures in mid-March.



Temperature Forecast (weatherbell.com)



Snowfall Forecast: We may see some snow this year. (weatherbell.com)

If you must do something to help your colonies survive the winter, set up a windbreak on the northwest side of your hives.

Typically, a colony will consume about two frames of honey by the end of January; during a warm winter, they will consume more because they are more active. If your colonies had a super of honey at the end of October, they should have enough. It's too cold to feed syrup; if your colony needs feeding, try the mountain camp method of feeding granulated sugar. It is quick and simpler than making a sugar block.

The Mountain Camp Method

Open the hive and add a shallow super or some other shim to allow enough space for the pile of sugar. Place one sheet of newspaper covering half of the cluster with any excess curved up the inside of the super. Pour about 2 pounds of granulated sugar near the edge of the newspaper and moisten with a spray bottle of syrup. The workers can climb onto the sugar from the uncovered area. Close the hive and inspect it in three to four weeks.



It's Time To Rest

Rest and read a good book this month! Here are two suggestions (click images for links to books):



Continued on next page >>



IT'S TIME TO... *Rest And Prepare*

>> *Continued from previous page*

It's Time To Prepare

Develop a plan for next year. How many colonies will survive the winter? How many do you want in the fall, knowing you will lose some during the winter? I recommend six colonies minimum in the fall. Plan on raising queens next year; yes, you can raise queens. I have taught first-year beekeepers how to raise queens. More on that in the spring.

Once you know the number of colonies, develop a plan for the number of hive components and start ordering, assembling, and painting equipment.

Inspect all your equipment in storage and repair as needed. I am inspecting all my supers and frames. Old comb or damaged comb is scraped off the plastic foundation. The old comb goes in the solar wax melter to render the beeswax. The foundations will be cleaned up with a pressure washer. After drying, the foundations will be rewaxed and reused.

In January, I'll explain why inspecting in late January is important and how to do it. 🐝



Beautiful beeswax rendered from old comb.

GBA Spring **TEACHING** Honey Show

By Brutz English, Certified Senior Honey Judge

The Spring GBA Conference and Honey Show are just around the corner. It's going to be a very different honey show this year. It will be a *teaching honey show*. This show will be a honey judge training event and will award ribbons only, no cash prizes.

People always ask about how the exhibits are judged and what the judges are looking for. This time you can come see for yourself. We are going to make the judging process more visible by allowing conference attendees to have access to the judges, in the judging area, *during the judging of exhibits*.

We will have several new categories including the new honey pound cake and the naturally granulated honey categories. Check out the rules on the GBA website, and *start getting your exhibits ready now*. The Spring Conference will be here before you can blink. 🐝



C' MON IN! The spring honey show will allow conference attendees to have access to the judges in the judging area during the judging of exhibits.



How many words (of two or more letters) can you make using the letters in

Beekeeper?

The 32 answers appear on **page 17**.



CONFERENCE RECAP: COOKIE RECIPES

We will publish cookie recipes from the GBA Fall Conference Friday snack break in upcoming editions of *Spilling The Honey*. Try them, you'll like them!

Paleo Chocolate Chip Cookies

Baked by **Angie Jones**

The recipe I made for the GBA conference cookie break is one I found online. I'm including **a link directly to the site where I got the recipe (click here)** because there are lots of variations based on dietary needs, and I like to give credit where credit is due!

The recipe below is what I prepared.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup blanched almond flour
- 1/4 cup coconut flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons coconut oil, room temperature, NOT melted
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons natural almond butter (the kind with just almonds), room temperature
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 chia egg (mix 1T. ground chia seed with 2.5T. water, let sit 5 minutes)
- 1 1/4 cups dairy free semi-sweet chocolate chips, divided

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a medium mixing bowl, stir together the almond flour, coconut flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl with an electric hand mixer or using a stand mixer, beat together the fat and sugar at medium speed until well combined, about 1 minute.
3. Beat in the almond butter and vanilla extract on medium speed and mix until combined. Beat in the chia egg on low and mix until well incorporated. Stir in the flour mixture until well combined. Then stir in chocolate chips.
4. Preheat the oven to 350 °F and line a baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper.
5. Scoop with cookie scoop and place 12 on each cookie sheet. Press the cookies down lightly with the palm of your hand.
6. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the surface of the center of the cookies no longer appears wet. They'll be very soft but will continue to cook as they sit on the cookie sheet.
7. Let cool completely on the baking sheet. Store in an airtight container for up to three days (*if they last that long!*).





THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH: DIY Frame Hanger

by David Hollomon

While preparing for my talk on equipment management for the fall GBA conference this year, I saw how other beekeepers came up with creative ways to store or hang their frames when not in use. Their methods are great but did not suit my available space, so I came up with an idea that was relatively cheap and effective for me.

I bought two pieces of aluminum angle iron, drilled small holes in them, and screwed them into the exposed 2 x 4s in my storage building, about 1.25 inches apart. The top piece is $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the bottom is $\frac{1}{2}$."

The frame tab and the weight of the frame hold it in place. The frame is easily removed plus you can grab any frame and not be concerned about a last-in / first-out method. 🐝



Do you have a beekeeping idea to share?

Please send us your submissions for our *Beekeeper's Workbench* column to newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com



The Idle Beekeeper

Bill Anderson

Book review by **David Hinton**

All beekeepers should ask themselves one fundamental question: why do I keep bees? There are really only two possible answers to that question, and I confess to the first: blatant thievery. I love honey, and I honestly confess to the selfish notion of keeping bees so that I can steal their honey at the appropriate moment.

My wife Dolly, who is the true beekeeper in the family, is in it for the second reason: she loves the bees (or “the girls” as she affectionately calls them). She likes the honey, of course, but her primary motivation is unquestionably to take good care of the bees.

I concede the possibility of a third reason: to save the planet, but I think it’s a bit too amorphous to cite. After all, it’s far easier and much less expensive to simply join the Friends of the Earth International or the Sierra Club.

I read this month’s book solely for its title and without knowing anything more about it than what the title conveys: “The Idle Beekeeper: The Low-Effort, Natural Way to Raise Bees.” Of course it would appeal to me since I would love to be an idle beekeeper and would certainly love to only keep bees in a low effort, natural way. But my Daddy always told me: “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” We would have to completely change—as opposed to adapt—our approach to beekeeping for it to be low effort and natural (maybe).

It’s really a book for those who pick the second reason: keeping bees for the benefit of the bees. The book’s title itself is a play on words that goes past Americans. The author, Bill Anderson, is an urban beekeeper in London, England who writes a regular beekeeping column for *The Idler* magazine and teaches an online Idle Beekeeping course on the magazine’s website. The book is actually a polemic against the Langstroth method of beekeeping and an argument for various alternatives. For Anderson, it is all about what is best for the bees and not about honey production, and certainly not about maximizing honey production which is what seems to concern many, if not most, beekeepers.

Anderson presents the outline of his case in the first chapter: “But because Langstroth allowed us to get under the bonnet [English for “hood”] of the beehive, we became able to start tinkering about, or “improving.” [Note his quotation marks around “improving”] And our goal was sweet and clear: more honey. So we manipulated the environment for the bees inside the hive to exploit their behavior in ways that maximize honey production. We did everything we could to turbocharge that one aspect of the bees’ lives. But as any car mechanic will tell you, whilst it is

possible to turbocharge any combustion engine to deliver huge amounts of power, if the components of that engine were never designed to cope with all the additional stresses incurred by the increased workload, it won’t last long. It will quickly burn out or break down. Have we brought our bees to this point?”

Anderson clearly thinks we have, and he spends a good part of the book to prove his point. But he also believes in an alternative: “Maybe it’s time to unbolt the turbocharger and get back to the trees. . . trees successfully gave a healthy home to bees for millions of years.”

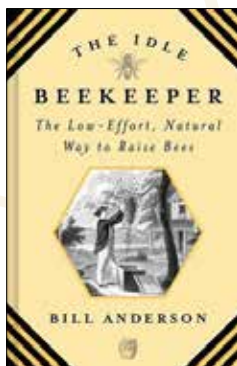
But how to reconcile amateur beekeeping with this desire to return to nature? For that, Anderson advocates using the Warre top bar hive. To introduce the hive Anderson writes:

“Back in 1917 French clergyman Emile Warre’ came up with a hive that combines the minimum

interruption to the continuous comb the bees have relied on for millions of years with the ability to harvest their honey without killing them. After experimenting with 350 various types of hives, he settled on his design of the Peoples Hive detailed in his book *Beekeeping for All*. Warre’ –pronounced War-Ray—like “x-ray”—not only wanted his Peoples Hive to be more like a tree cavity, he wanted it to be simple enough for anyone with the most basic woodworking skills to be able to make. He wanted beekeeping to be more popular and democratic.”

The philosophical merits of the Warre’ hive remain, but his vision of a more democratic approach to beekeeping obviously did not envisage a future society without even the most basic woodworking skills.

To give details on the top bar Warre hive goes beyond the scope of this review. But if the hive’s philosophical approach to beekeeping intrigues you, this is an excellent book to start with. It is full of detailed information on how to practice this approach to beekeeping even while surrounded by the primacy of the Langstroth method. Detailed appendices of photo illustrations show how to make necessary adaptations to equipment. 🐝



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.



Club News

Send the news about your club (description of a speaker's talk at your club's meeting, short course announcement, photos, events, etc.) to newslettereditor@gabeekeeping.com

Beekeepers of Gilmer County

Due to the passing of **Russell Evans**, who was well thought of both as a businessman and beekeeper, and the hospitalization of **Steve Rhoades** who was vice president, the Beekeepers of Gilmer County club has nominated and voted **Jim Harris** as President, and **Bill Emery** as Vice President to assume those duties starting in January 2024. 🐝



Russell Evans

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers

The Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, November 28th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant. **Joe Money**, a local commercial beekeeper, presented the program on how to make creamed honey. He discussed the process that is needed and discussed how his creamed honey equipment operates. Joe and his wife Kristen provided samples of various flavors of the creamed honey that they make and made some available for purchase. HOGBA selected **Jesse McCurdy** as this year's Beekeeper of the Year. It will be presented to his wife as Jesse passed away on November 17th. HOGBA held its black jar honey contest. **Anita Curry** served as the judge as she has just become a certified Welsh Honey Judge. Third-place winner was **Tammy Norton**, second-place winner was **Michael McDowell** and the first-place winner was **Kathy Sellers**. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 19th. The program will be our Christmas social and silent auction. You can view our activities at hogba.org. 🐝



L to R: Anita Curry, Kathy Sellers, Michael McDowell and Tammy Norton

Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association



At the November Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association meeting, Georgia Master Beekeeper **David Hollomon** gave us an excellent presentation on managing beekeeping equipment. His talk was a mix of his own experience transitioning from clutter to organization, as well as his visits to several beekeepers' apiaries around the state to gather their ideas and methods. 🐝

Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

We all deal with it... *bee equipment clutter*. That is why **David Hollomon's** talk at the fall GBA Conference was very popular. Now David is sharing the tips and tricks he has learned with local clubs. He told the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association members how he traveled to various 'beekeepers' apiaries and brought home their best storage ideas. He shared great ideas about storing frames, organizing woodware, and how to have everything you need when doing inspections. 🐝



Club News

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Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

At its November meeting, MABA welcomed as its speaker UGA's **Dr. Keith Delaplane** (right). Presenting on the fascinating topic of *Honey Bee Social Immunity*, he discussed the many ways in which honey bees have evolved to promote and maintain a healthy environment inside their hives.



There will be no regular monthly meeting in December. Instead, MABA will host its annual **year-end holiday celebration** at Manuel's Tavern on Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30 pm.

Beginning in January 2024, the club's monthly meeting day is moving to the **second Monday of the month**. January's meeting will be held on Monday, January 8. MABA president **Peter Helfrich** will present *Native Bees 101 for Beekeepers*. Mentoring session begins at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting following at 7 pm. 🐝

Oglethorpe County Beekeeper Club

On Monday, November 20th, we had a presentation by **Dr. Joerg Mayer** (right) of the University of Georgia Veterinary School. He directs the apiary program at the UGA vet school, and his topic of how apitherapy is used to treat exotic animals was fascinating. He explained how honey and venom contain compounds that are unique to the honey bee, and showed us proof of successful apitherapy treatments involving several animals brought to the vet school. These occurred after conventional drugs/treatment failed. He also delved into how studies are showing bee venom and honey are helping humans, and that the research is exponentially growing. Dr. Mayer is a superb speaker, and this was perhaps the best presentation ever given at our club. 🐝



SOWEGA Beekeepers Association

SOWEGA Beekeepers Club's November meeting included our honey show, and the turnout was exceptional. We had 30 entries across these categories: black jar, extracted honey, mead, beverages, beeswax bars, baked goods, photography and poetry. A big shout out to Welsh Honey Judge **Anita Curry** who came to judge our entries. Also in attendance was **David Lanier** from Plantation Gallery and **Wallace Bonner** who helped with judging the artisan show. **Stan Okon**, SOWEGA Vice President, took home the Best in Show Ribbon for his handmade bee quilt. We hope that some of our SOWEGA members will be submitting entries for next year's GBA Fall Conference/Honey Show. 🐝



SAVE THE DATE

American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow

January 9–12, 2024

New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130



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Word Buzzle Answers (from page 11)

re	rep	eke	peke	berk
pe	ree	eek	peer	beer
er	reb	bee	peek	beep
be	per	Reek	kerb	keeper
	pee	pre	keep	keeper
	kep	perk	epee	beeper
	ere	pere	bree	beeker