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BEEKEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION

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Featuring the  
Annual

HONEY SHOW



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*

SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS

# SPEAKERS



**Dr. Dewey M. Caron** is Emeritus Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and Affiliate Professor, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University. He has spent 40+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee research at Cornell (1967-1970), University of MD (1970-1981) and University of DE (1981-2009). He spends four to six months each year in Bolivia where he keeps Africanized bees, and has five backyard colonies in Tigard, Oregon.



**Michael Bush** has been keeping bees since the mid 1970s, usually from two to seven hives, until the year 2000. Varroa forced more experimentation which required more hives and the number has grown steadily. By 2008 his apiary had grown to about 200 hives. He is active on many of the Beekeeping forums with last count at more than 50,000 posts between all of them.

**Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Ramona Herboldsheimer** are the authors of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping*. This husband and wife beekeeping team live in Leominster, Massachusetts where they run Golden Rule Honey, LLC. They breed and keep bees, run beekeeping conferences and classes, write, and do research. They are active in the Worcester County Beekeepers Association and travel around the country speaking about beekeeping.



**Rachael Bonoan** is a Ph.D. student at Tufts University and a board member for the Boston Area Beekeeper's Association. She studies honey bee health and nutrition and is particularly interested in how honey bees get the right nutrients—in the right amounts—from their ever-changing environment. For her research, Rachael keeps eight observation hives at the Tufts University Medford/Somerville campus.

**Bear Kelley** is retired from the US Army after 30 years and is a Certified Bee Keeper as well as a Certified Welsh Honey Judge. He was the recipient of the 2014 Georgia Beekeeper of the Year award. Bear earned a Master's Degree from Michigan State University and is the President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. He has been keeping bees for about ten years and operates a small apiary in South Georgia.



**Steven Page** started beekeeping in 2007 with two hives and now manages Barrington Farms Apiary, LLC with 82 hives in Coweta County. He is the president of the Coweta Beekeepers Association and a Certified Beekeeper in the Georgia Master Beekeeper Program. Steven developed a simple sustainable beekeeping method for beekeepers with small apiaries in 2014.



## BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS



**Mary Cahill-Roberts** is an active member of GBA, currently the Vice President. She is a Master Beekeeper and a Welsh Honey Judge. She has entered her creamed honey and won various competitions, including the contest at the Eastern Apiculture Society.



**Ray Civitts** and his wife Julie run Mountain Sweet Honey in Toccoa, Georgia. They sell honey, promote honey bee awareness, and encourage others to buy local honey and support beekeepers. Ray is an active member of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association.



**Stephanie Darnell** is here from Bayer CropScience. She received a bachelor's degree in Horticulture with a minor in Chemistry from Northwest Missouri State University and M.S. degree in Entomology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is responsible for science communications and forage habitat initiatives for the North American Bee Team.



**Dr. Keith Delaplane** is Professor of Entomology, Walter B. Hill Fellow, and Director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. He has conducted numerous research projects and is a much sought after speaker on honeybee topics.



**Keith Fielder** is a Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judge. He has around 30 colonies which provide extracted, chunk and comb honey. Employed by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension as the County Extension Coordinator for Putnam County, he is active in many beekeeping organizations.



**Bill Owens** is Georgia's only Master Craftsman Beekeeper. Having worked with honey bees most of his life, Bill is an entrepreneur, author, instructor, full time firefighter, webmaster, beekeeper, entertaining speaker, and bee remover who (believe it or not) enjoys the simple life.



**Jay Parsons** is a Georgia Master Beekeeper, member of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, and his skills as a woodworker are used to do whatever he wants with his bee hives. He has extensive experience and background in outdoor education with a variety of different schools and programs.



**Dr. Margo Wimbish** is a beekeeper and educator who has worked in youth science education for 25 years. She is involved in youth education outreach through libraries, classroom instruction, summer science camps, grant writing and implementation, and curriculum development and consultation.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, September 17** 7:00 PM Board Meeting  
8:00 PM Welcome Reception at Hampton Inn: For all conference attendees

## Friday, September 18

7:30 - 8:30 President's Breakfast

A meeting of all attending local club presidents led by GBA President Bear Kelley. Location: Host Hotel, reserved room.

**Honey Show Entries taken from 8:00-12:00 in Room 213**

9:00-9:15 Opening remarks: Bear Kelley, GBA President

9:15-10:00 Dewey Caron: *What Successful Beekeepers are doing to Improve Colony Survivorship*

Bee losses of anywhere from 10 to over 40% above an acceptable level have become common. Losses of GA beekeepers have been especially heavy—what are those GA beekeepers whose hives survive doing that improves their bee success rate?

10:00-10:45 Michael Bush: *Four Simple Steps to Healthier Bees*

A synopsis of the principles of treatment free beekeeping

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:40 Breakout Sessions A and Bee Yard Time\*

11:45-12:45 LUNCH

12:45-1:00 Remarks

1:00-1:45 Dean Stiglitz: *Critical Beeing: A Perspective From Outside the Box*

Beekeeping is almost a metaphor for quantum physics, or a Buddhist joke. You have thousands of stinging insects in a box, you can't see what's going on inside the box without opening it... which changes what is happening inside the box. Taking a step back from the rules of thumb, common practice, and scientific conclusions, we will take a critical look at what we are told, what we think we know and why.

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-2:40 Breakout Sessions B and Bee Yard Time\*

2:45-3:30 Rachel Bonoan: *Why do honey bees like dirty water?*

Beekeepers have observed that honey bees forage from dirty water sources over clean ones. While the mechanism by which honey bees find dirty water sources is likely scent, the reason has yet to be discovered.

3:30-4:15 Steve Page: *Sustainable Beekeeping*

A simple method using the resources in colonies to raise queens and make splits without special tools, special skills or special equipment.

4:15 Dismiss

**Dinner on your own**

7:00 Friday Night Social: *Distinctions and Desserts*

Honey Show Winners, Georgia Beekeeper of the Year Award, Auction

## Saturday, September 18

9:00-10:30 GBA Annual Business Meeting

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:15 Laurie Ramona Herboldsheimer:

*Up the Yin Yang: Honeybees and Microbes*

Microbes are the 'invisible castes' of the hive... providing the means for the bees to digest food, resist disease, and even for the mysterious alchemy of producing honey. The many roles the microbes play, how their populations and environments are sustained symbiotically with the bees, and how they are impacted by beekeeper, farmer, and general human activity, are among the most interesting and active areas of honeybee research today.

11:15-12:00 Dewey Caron: *Beyond Varroa Mites*

Varroa mites garner the headlines but beekeepers soon realize there are other challenges to successful bee stewardship. Putting bee diseases and pests into perspective and paying attention to management of queens and the bee population are means to achieving more satisfying and profitable beekeeping.

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-1:15 Remarks

1:15-2:00 Michael Bush: *Lazy Beekeeping*

Ways to work less and accomplish more!

2:10-2:50 Breakout Sessions C and Bee Yard Time\*

2:55-3:35 Breakout Sessions D and Bee Yard Time\*

3:45-4:30 Bear Kelley: *Honey—Who knew?*

Dig deep into what honey is, where it comes from, how it's made and what it is used for. We all know that the bees make it, but how? We all know it comes from nectar, but how is it processed? This talk will bring to light info that is assumed, and focus on details that may not be understood.

4:30 Closing Remarks

### \*Bee Yard Time

Sign up at the registration table to go through a hive with an experienced beekeeper during one of the Breakout Sessions (*weather permitting.*) Special thanks go to Keith Fielder for providing colonies for this activity.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## Friday, September 18 Breakout Sessions A & B

### Best Management Practices for Varroa

An overview of the place of Varroa mites in colony decline and the best science-based recommendations for the Varroa mite's management.

**Dr. Keith Delaplane** • Location: Main Conference Room

### Small Hive Beetles: An Overview with Options

Descriptions of behavior, biological impact, and "treatments" to tame the pest that keeps coming back.

**Jay Parsons** • Location: Room 219

### Honey Bees and Crop Protection Products

Get an overview of the risk assessment process for honey bees during the development of crop protection products. There will also be information on the current bee health initiatives at Bayer CropScience.

**Stephanie Darnell** • Location: Conference Room B

### Physiological and behavioral immunity in the honey bee

This talk will cover some of the ways honey bees defend themselves from a variety of pests, and will focus on social immunity.

**Rachel Bonoan** • Location: Room 217

SESSION A ONLY  
SESSION B ONLY

### Queens, Queens, Good For Your Art

The importance of good queens cannot be overstated. Taking charge of your own queens need not be difficult or expensive. Learn how to raise your own queens, and gain a better understanding of how and why various systems work.

**Dean Stiglitz** • Location: Room 202

### GBA Junior Beekeepers: Building Future Beekeepers

Learn about many local, state, and national opportunities available to young beekeepers. Resources will also be provided for clubs interested in providing new and innovative programs or renovating existing youth programs.

**Dr. Margo Wimbish** • Location: Room 220

## Saturday, September 19 Breakout Sessions C & D

### The Why and How of Beekeeping

Some individuals become beekeepers to 'Save the Bees' while others need to 'Make the Bees Pay.' Bees discover beekeepers while other individuals plan for their venture into livestock care. The basics are similar no matter the how or why and will be featured in this interactive discussion.

**Dr. Dewey M. Caron** • Location: Main Conference Room

### Bee Removal Basics

Removing an existing colony of honey bees from a building is something about which beekeepers are frequently asked. One of the most entertaining presenters in the industry discusses this unique beekeeping sideline.

**Bill Owens** • Location: Room 202

### Observation Hives 101

Invite a hive into your living room! This talk will explain how to set up and maintain an observation hive in your house.

**Michael Bush** • Location: Conference Room B

### Creamed Honey: The How-Tos

Learn the step-by-step process of making creamed honey as demonstrated by an award-winning creamed honey producer.

**Mary Cahill-Roberts** • Location: Room 213

### How to Organize a Honey Show

Learn what's involved in running and promoting a successful Honey Show for your organization.

**Keith Fielder** • Location: Room 219

### Challenges of Commercial Beekeeping

**NOTE: This talk takes up both C & D sessions**

How do you figure the costs in producing honey to be sure you're profitable? Learn the importance of accounting, legal, and banking and the value each brings to the table. Get an overview of honey purchasing and bee supply business.

**Ray Civitts** • Location: Room 220



First Floor

Second Floor

