



**FALL
MEETING
2016**

2016 OFFICERS

President
Mary Cahill-Roberts

Vice President
Andy Bailey

Secretary
Linda Tillman

Treasurer
Roseanne Dorn

Newsletter Editors
Gina Gallucci
Linda Tillman

Past President
Clay "Bear" Kelley

Webmaster
Harvest Hoffman

DIRECTORS

Arthur "Brutz" English

Derrick Fowler

Randy Rolan

Broadus Williams

SPONSORED BY:



Featuring the
Annual
HONEY SHOW
Best in Show prize
\$250



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS

October 7 & 8

Central Georgia Technical College • Milledgeville, Georgia

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 6

7:00 PM Board Meeting

8:00 PM Welcome Reception at Fairfield Inn: For all conference attendees

Friday, October 7

7:30 - 8:30 **President's Breakfast** A meeting of all attending local club presidents. Location: Fairfield Inn

Honey Show Entries: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM in Room 106

GBA Officer Elections: Ballots may be cast by GBA members between from 8:00 AM-4:15 PM at the registration table

9:00-9:15 Opening remarks: Mary Cahill-Roberts, GBA President

9:15-10:00 Jamie Ellis, PhD: *What's Happening to Our Bee*

Colonies? An overview of stressors impacting managed honey bee colonies and a discussion of what the colony loss numbers really mean.

10:00-10:45 Michael Palmer: *The Sustainable Apiary*

We all lose bees in the winter, and replacing those bees can get expensive. I suggest we use the brood and bee resources in our non-productive colonies to make mid-summer nuclei, which are over-wintered, becoming our replacement bees, come spring. The presentation includes theory, history, and management of nucleus colonies.

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:40 Breakout Sessions A

11:45-12:00 Bear Kelley & Jennifer Berry:
Georgia Prison Beekeeping Programs

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-1:45 Phyllis Stiles: *Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA*

While three-quarters of the world's plant species rely on pollinators to reproduce, honeybees and other pollinators are in decline. The Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA programs engage large and small cities and counties in converting to PC (pollinator conscious) landscaping on public and private land.

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-2:40 Breakout Sessions B

2:45-3:30 Shane Gebauer: *Beekeeping Ain't Easy*

The amount of information given to novice beekeepers can be daunting, overwhelming, and many times a sufficient barrier to one getting started. Let's distill it down and focus on the basics so that we can be successful.

3:30-4:15 Dwight Wells: *The Importance of Honey Bees*

Nutrition Honey Bees require adequate protein and carbohydrates to maintain excellent health year round. This presentation explores why the queen, drones and workers need proper nutrition to be able to keep the colony healthy. Beekeepers will receive info on how to monitor and feed their bees.

4:15-5:00 **Q&A Speaker Panel** Jamie Ellis, Michael Palmer, Bear Kelley, Jennifer Berry, Phyllis Stiles, Shane Gebauer and Dwight Wells will answer your questions.

Dinner on your own

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

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

Saturday, October 8

9:00-10:15 GBA Annual Business Meeting

10:15-10:45 Courtney Wadley:

Report of GBA Funded Research Project

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:45 Breakout Sessions C

11:45-12:30 LUNCH

12:15-12:30 Raffles and Announcements

12:30-1:15 Michael Palmer:

A Successful Annual Management Plan

I present my annual colony management plan, in a climate where the bees can be buried under snow for months at a time, with no opportunity for winter cleansing flights.

1:15-2:00 Shane Gebauer: *Keeping Bees Alive*

The challenge for any beekeeper is to keep their hive healthy and alive. To be successful we must understand why they are dying and then we can take steps to prevent it. Being attentive to just a few management tasks will profoundly increase the hive's chances of survival.

2:10-2:50 Breakout Sessions D

2:50-3:05 Break

3:05-3:55 Jennifer Berry: *Let's talk Oxalic*

3:55-4:40 Jamie Ellis, PhD:

The Amazing Honey Bee: Design and Function

Honey bees are marvelous creatures. In this lecture, you will discover how honey bee bodies complement their function and lead to highly developed insect societies.

4:40 Safe Travels

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS



Kim Bailey holds a bachelor's degree in biology and secondary education and master's degree in curriculum and instruction. After working in the field of environmental education for over 20 years, she now enjoys growing milkweed, wildflowers, fruits, and vegetables while learning more about the pollinators that also make their home at her family's farm in Fruitland, NC. Kim also serves on the board of directors for Bee City USA and the Henderson County Beekeepers Association.



Kathy Bourn is a hobby beekeeper with an assortment of hives on her farm in Hartwell, Georgia. She enjoys building a variety of hive designs and equipment for her 15 or so colonies. Kathy is currently a member of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association and the Vice President for the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association.

SPEAKERS



For the past fourteen years, **Jennifer Berry** has been the apicultural research coordinator and lab manager for the University of Georgia honey bee program. She is a regular columnist for *Bee Culture* magazine. She also writes occasionally for other publications, including *Bee World*.

She travels extensively to speak to local, state, national and international beekeeping associations. On evenings and weekends, Jennifer operates Honey Pond Farm, a queen and nuc business, which focuses on rearing healthy bees while selecting for longevity, pest resistance and honey production.

Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Associate Professor of Entomology in the department of entomology and nematology at the University of Florida. He has a BS degree in biology from the University of Georgia (Georgia, USA) and a PhD in entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida, Jamie has responsibilities in extension, instruction and research.



Shane Gebauer became a beekeeper 14 years ago with one hive in his backyard. A year later he left his job as an ecologist with the Nature Conservancy to manage a commercial outfit which sold bee supplies and ran 300 colonies in upstate NY. He worked there for four years, when an opportunity presented itself to become the GM of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm in North Carolina. He is currently the president and continues to keep bees in his backyard.



Bear Kelley is retired from the US Army after 30 years. He is a certified bee keeper and certified Welsh honey judge. He earned a master's degree from Michigan State Univ. and is the past president of the Georgia Beekeepers Assn. He has been beekeeping for about 10 years and operates a small apiary in south Georgia. Bear was selected as the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2014 and Heart of Georgia Beekeeper of the year in 2015.



Michael Palmer lives in Saint Albans, Vermont with his wife Lesley, a cow named Meat, and Wilson, their Maremma Sheepdog. Oh, did someone say cats? Millions and billions and trillions of cats. When not helping his crew manage the honey production colonies, or in the cell-building apiary, raising queens for the operation, Mike travels the world teaching sustainable beekeeping to anyone who will listen.



Founder and director of Bee City USA® and Bee Campus USA, **Phyllis Stiles** was named the 2015 Pollinator Advocate for the United States by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. When she attended bee school in 2008, "they had her at hello." Her days are now filled with learning all she can about pollinators, native plants, pesticides and what people can do to sustain the 100s of thousands of species of hard-working pollinators that sustain our planet.



Dwight Wells Started keeping bees in 1954 at age 14 in 4H in Western Pennsylvania. He is the president of West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, Life Member and a Board Director of Ohio State Beekeeping Association, a founding member of Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative, member of the Propolis Project, and the vice president of the Buckeye Queen Producers. His passion is promoting sustainable beekeeping, mentoring and educating beekeepers. Presently he is working on several projects evaluating Purdue University mite grooming behavior stock and introducing locally adapted purdue stock within the Midwest.



Courtney Wadley just began her senior year at North Cobb High School where she is in the magnet program for international studies. Curiosity about the phenomenon of CCD got her interested in honey bees. In her spare time she loves to craft, read, and volunteer at the library. Courtney is a proud member of North Cobb High School's marching band.



K. Alan Bunch is the manager of Georgia Farm Bureau Brokerage, Inc., in Macon, Georgia. He has over 31 years of experience in the insurance profession as a company manager, agency owner, independent producer, and company underwriter. He holds an agricultural economics degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and has continued his education by earning the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor and is currently working towards his designation as a Chartered property and Casualty Underwriter.



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.



Slade Jarrett is the owner of Jarrett Apiaries along with his wife, Kristie. As a small-scale commercial migratory beekeeper, he currently moves his bees around Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida for honey and pollination. He is a co-founder of Tri-County Beekeepers, has served as past president of North East Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association, and served as a director of GBA. Slade now focuses his time on business and family. Slade specializes in selling nucs, grafting, raising, and selling queens, and producing specialty honeys.



Linda Tillman is a master beekeeper and has been keeping bees for eleven years. She runs a well-read blog, covering all she has learned: the successes as well as the mistakes she has made during her beekeeping adventures. Linda is the secretary of GBA and has co-edited the GBA newsletter for the last four years. Linda has now retired from her clinical psychology practice and spends her time with her grandchildren, her bees, and her baking.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Friday, October 7 • Breakout Sessions A

Minimizing the impact of pesticides on honey bees - Jamie Ellis, PhD
Have pesticides got you down? In this lecture, Jamie discusses the steps you can take to lessen negative interactions between your bees and pest control products. *Location: Main Conference Room*

Identifying the apiary as the super-organism - Jennifer Berry
Location: Room 202

Experiences and Journeys as a Small-Scale Commercial Beekeeper - Slade Jarrett
Experiences, journeys, hardships, and rewards of making beekeeping a main stream income and understanding the necessary equipment needed to migrate bees without breaking your back is all a part of becoming successful. In order to have a thriving commercial operation it requires hard work, tirelessly long days and nights. *Location: Room 216*

Insurance for the beekeeper - Alan Bunch
Do you have the protection you want and need? What are the financial risks you face? How to protect the risks you face by using insurance as a risk management technique. *Location: Room 217*

How to prepare honey for a show - Keith Fielder
Location: Conference Room-B

Friday, October 7 • Breakout Sessions B

Queen rearing in the Sustainable Apiary: Part 1 - Michael Palmer
Brother Adam said, many times, "Let the bees show you." No truer words have ever been spoken. Let me show you how I use a variation of Bro. Adam's cell building method, to grow quality queen stock in my sustainable apiary. *Location: Main Conference Room*

Creating pollinator habitat gardens - Kim Bailey
Examine habitat needs of our native bees, butterflies, moths, etc. plus learn ways to entice those delightful dynamos of the garden, ruby-throated hummingbirds. Invite monarchs to lunch by growing milkweed and discover how to attract a variety of other fascinating pollinators and beneficial insects by providing a succession of blooms. *Location: Room 202*

Your bees made it through the winter, now what? - Shane Gebauer
Many new beekeepers focus on the first season and then scramble to in early spring after the colony successfully overwintered. The management and beekeeping is different for an overwintered colony versus starting a new one. Understanding those differences can set the stage for success in year two. *Location: Conference Room-B*

Creating and managing nucs - Dwight Wells
The how & why of creating nucs using local adapted honey bee stock with locally adapted queens mated with healthy drones will be discussed. A detailed procedure that is easy to follow that provides the proper age of bees, successful queen introduction and proper management of the nuc for future use. *Location: Room 216*

How to use club management software - Linda Tillman
Find out how simple computer software can manage your club membership, get people to pay their dues, collect dues, help with publishing a newsletter, set up your club honey show or short course or picnic. GBA uses Wild Apricot so we will demonstrate using that program. *Location: Room 217*

Saturday, October 8 • Breakout Sessions C

Queen rearing in the Sustainable Apiary: Part 2 - Michael Palmer
Location: Main Conference Room

Pollinators, A Vital Key to Our Planet's Resiliency - Phyllis Stiles
Until they started declining, pollinators were taken for granted. Now elite national and international task forces are producing pollinator status reports and strategic plans to sustain them. This talk is a snapshot of the invaluable ecosystem services they provide—it's much more than honey. *Location: Room 202*

An effective varroa mite management plan: Part 1 - Dwight Wells
What beekeepers need to know about varroa mites. Watch bees killing mites! The anatomy and biology of the varroa mite. The problems mites cause, what happened to our 300 years genetic drone gene pool. How to monitor mite populations. The seven stages of beekeeping grief because of mites. *Location: Conference Room-B*

Teaching Kids about Bees & Pollinators - Kim Bailey
Wondering what to do when your club is invited to provide an educational program at a school, camp, festival, or fair? We've got you covered with a wealth of ideas and teaching resources for large group presentations, fun outdoor games, and in-depth learning projects plus displays and interactive activities for exhibit tables. *Location: Room 216*

Honey Show Council Meeting - Bear Kelley
All judges, stewards and show secretaries will be interested in attending this session as we are forming a "Judges Council" similar to the Presidents council. The purpose is to review the rules of the honey shows and share information about how each show will be conducted. *Location: Room 217*

Saturday, October 8 • Breakout Sessions D

An effective varroa mite management plan: Part 2 - Dwight Wells
Using mite tolerant and resistant bee stock. Purdue University mite grooming honey bees. How to control mites using the different levels of Integrated Pest Management practices to help maintain year long colony health. Threshold levels and graphs of bee and mite dynamics. How to prevent mite bombs. *Location: Conference Room-B*

Swarm management - Slade Jarrett
Swarm control should be part of every beekeepers management system. Regular inspections gives beekeepers the opportunity to check for signs that a colony is preparing to swarm. The goal is to have healthy strong hives at the start of a honey flow while preventing swarming to maximize the honey crop. *Location: Main Conference Room*

Alternate Hives: Beekeeping Outside the Box - Kathy Bourn
As ingenious as the honey bees themselves are the beekeepers who house them. We take a look at the origins of the honey bee hive and the many designs that can be used to keep bees. It's what puts the "keep" in "beekeeper". *Location: Room 217*

Four ways to harvest honey without an extractor - Linda Tillman
The backyard beekeeper can enjoy a delicious harvest without using an extractor. Come and learn how to harvest your honey with only a pan and a few utensils to wash! You'll also discover how to package your special honey to win prizes. *Location: Room 202*

Training honey show secretaries - Keith Fielder *Location: Room 216*