



Spilling *The* Honey

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
KATHY BOURN & PETER HELFRICH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my favorite time of the beekeeping year! 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 nectar flow. I hope you enjoy spring beekeeping as much as I do!

The GBA planning committee is likewise busy making final arrangements for our fall 2024 conference. It will be held on September 20 and 21, at the Ramsey Conference Center in Gainesville, GA. Again, we will be helping to host the University of Georgia's Master Beekeeper Program on Thursday the 19th with lectures and testing for all levels – Certified, Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman. The GBA Honey Show also will be held at this conference. There will be big cash prizes to win. Please read all there is about this honey show in the months ahead.

We are putting to good use our income from the Save The Honey Bee license plate proceeds, and enjoying sharing with so many worthy plans. Please remember to read the rules (*twice!*) before you hit send on your grant request. For those unfamiliar with how the license plate proceeds committee works, here a few things to keep in mind:

- GBA never gives out money which is not sitting in our bank account;
- We don't reimburse for money you or your group have already spent;
- We look very closely at how many people will be positively impacted by how the money is used;
- GBA hopes to have this money spent on special or extra plans or things not normally covered by your local club dues, beekeeping schools or other fundraisers. For this reason, we count how many speaker fees are requested per local association annually, and limit it to four. This money can be used to support your local association but not to fund it.
- The License Plate Proceeds Committee typically meet on the third Thursday of the month (it might move if it's the week of our fall meeting or if it falls on a major holiday) and like to have the grant applications in a week before so that we can study them before we meet.

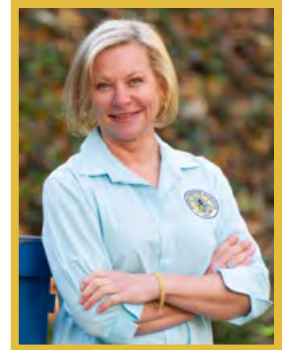
Finally, please let us know what you think about our readers' ability to easily find old articles in *Spilling the Honey*. Ours is likely to be the most professional honey bee association newsletter in the country. Many thanks to the team of **Kathy Bourn** and **Peter Helfrich**, with **Linda Tillman's** fantastic assistance with final editing. Please share this with members of your local beekeeping associations and encourage them to join GBA. 🍯

- Gina

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GINA GALLUCCI
President,
Georgia Beekeepers
Association

NOMINATIONS NOW BEE-ING ACCEPTED:

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.

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

The Georgia Beekeeper-of-the-Year should:

- Exemplify good beekeeping practices;
- Demonstrate leadership;
- Promote Georgia's beekeeping industry;
- Creatively solve problems of industry-wide concern;
- 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.

BOY Committee Chair, **Jonathan Hayes**, is now taking nominations for this prestigious award. **The BOY nomination form can be accessed via the GBA website.** Traditionally, past Beekeepers of the Year are not awarded the honor again. 🐝



Dan Long (right), 2022 Beekeeper of the Year, presenting the award to Jonathan Hayes (left) in 2023.

Past Beekeepers of the Year

2023 – Jonathan Hayes
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

Certified Beekeeper Testing Opportunity May 4 in Decatur

This spring, **Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association** will again offer beekeepers with one full year of beekeeping experience the opportunity to sit for the Certified Beekeeper test. Certified Beekeeper is the first level of the University of Georgia's Master Beekeeper program. The examination consists of two sections: a written test based on the content of Dr. Keith Delaplane's book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*; and a practical test including identifying beekeeping equipment and tools, diseases of the hive, and conducting a brief, basic inspection. The test date is May 4, 1-5 p.m. (rain date May 11). You must register in advance. Testing will be held at Academe of the Oaks, 146 New St., Decatur, GA 30030. The cost is \$75 per person. **For more information and to register, CLICK HERE.**

CERTIFIED BEEKEEPER TESTING

Take the first step towards becoming a Master Beekeeper.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

WHERE'S WAGGLE?



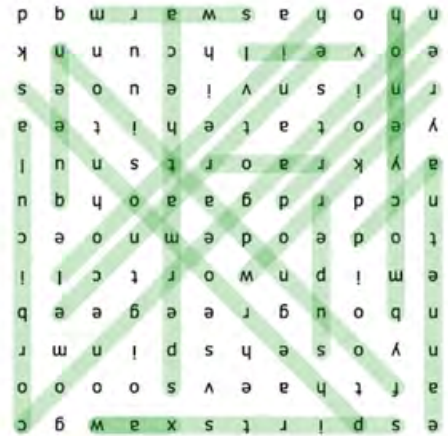
In March, our mascot Waggle (*that's her above right!*) was hidden in a pretty hard-to-find spot. She was perched on a honey label and looked so natural there that I truly thought it would be difficult to discover her in the issue. Go back to last month's issue and see if you can find her in her special location.

Six of our readers correctly discovered her hiding place. We put the numbers of their entries into a random number generator and the winner is (*drumroll*): **Kevin McCraney** of Lake Hartwell beekeepers. Kevin wins an I ♥ Beekeeping coffee mug from Bob Binnie's store in Lakemont, Georgia.

The people who correctly identified Waggle's location in the March issue were: **Mary Cahill Roberts, Lisa Bowers, Kevin McCraney, Julia Mahood, Lana Wuolukka, and Annie Cheatham.**

See if you can find Waggle in this April edition. Look hard – Peter is great at hiding her. And you too can win a lovely prize from **Bob Binnie's Blue Ridge Honey store.** We want you to enjoy all the articles in our wonderful newsletter while you search, so enjoy the newsletter and good luck! **Remember, the image of Waggle seen here DOES NOT COUNT.** To let us know you have found Waggle, [click here.](#)

Buzzle Page Answer Key



UGA Bee Lab Pollinator Plant Sale 2024

April 20th, 10 am – 2 pm • Horticulture Farm, 1221 Hog Mountain Rd. Watkinsville, 30677

The UGA Bee Lab is very excited about this year's pollinator plant sale! We have carefully selected pollinator plants for their ability to attract a variety of pollinators (big and small) to your yard along with other beneficial insects. We will have for sale an array of individual pollinator plants as well as pollinator garden flats. The garden flats will include a selection of different plants. Deciding which plants to choose can be confusing for those new to gardening in Georgia, new to pollinator gardens in general, or for those who don't want the pressure of knowing which plants to select. *We've done the choosing for you!*

We will include information about each plant to help guide you in your planting process. We want your pollinator garden to be successful, so we have chosen plants suited for the Piedmont region of Georgia and have also chosen plants we have personally observed as great for attracting pollinators.

Thank you for your support and interest in protecting pollinators.



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
- Observation hives
- Research projects
- 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.

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 Drew Harvey

GBA Secretary Mark Shields

Bob Binnie

Gail Dean

Katie Goodman

FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT:

Etowah River Beekeepers

Etowah River Beekeepers was granted money from the GBA License Plate Fund and those funds were used to purchase woodenware, packages, and nucs of bees for our teaching apiary. Having these items has been valuable to demonstrate to our bee school attendees and to club members at our summer picnic things like how to install a nuc or a package of bees into their hives; how to feed their bees inside their hives; and how to inspect a colony. The funds from the grant also allows us as a club to have bees in two locations, better serving our members. Our hive inspection demonstrations (during the season) also depend on our having these supplies. We thank the GBA License Plate Grant Funds Committee for awarding our club with this generous grant. 🐝

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.



Plants for Bees:

🐝 Edgeworthia (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) 🐝

By **Kathy Bourn**

Even as spring blossoms are popping all around us, it's good to remember the bee plants that provide winter and early spring treats for honey bees. That list includes hellebores, camelias, mahonias, and the subdued edgeworthia. This broadleaf deciduous shrub may not be flashy with its tiny flowers on bare stems, but pollinators still love it. The silver buds are produced in the fall with the blooms appearing in the winter. The individual flowers are small but a dozen of them make a two-inch cluster of yellow flowers that smell like honey.

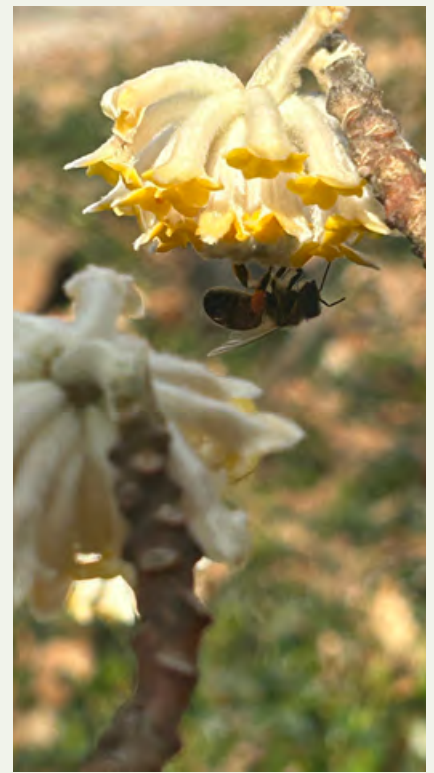
The common names of paperbush or rice paper plant come from the plant's use in paper making. The unique color and texture of the Japanese banknote come from the fact that they are produced using the bark of edgeworthia plants. The plant is named after Michael Edgeworth, an Irish botanist, and his half-sister Maria Edgeworth, an author. It is native to China and the Himalayas, and traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine used edgeworthia to treat fever and inflammation.

This shrub is hardy in zones 7 to 10, and depending on the variety, can reach 3 to 6 feet tall and wide. Pruning is optional. Partial shade and well-drained soil is where it will thrive. It is frost and heat-tolerant and deer-resistant. Nanjing Gold and



Red Dragon Edgeworthia are two of the showier varieties.

Even though the plant lacks foliage during the bloom time, after the flowers drop, it will produce dark bluish foliage for year-round interest turning yellow in the fall. It may look a little spindly in the early spring, but the wonderful fragrance is well worth it for you and the bees. 🐝





IT'S TIME TO...

Make Honey

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.

Timing Is Everything: Nectar Flow In The Piedmont

The main nectar flow has started in our region and will end early in mid-May. If your bees find nectar after mid-May, consider yourself lucky. Processing the nectar into honey will require time, resulting in some cells being capped in June. A hive scale can identify when nectar flows begin and end. My scale never indicated nectar foraging after May.

Things That Affect Honey Production

- **The colony is small, or the colony swarmed** – A large colony that did not swarm can make 100 pounds of honey.
- **Cold or wet weather** – A freeze or frost can kill blooms, stopping nectar production until new blooms produce nectar. Rain stops forager flights and washes nectar off blooms. Every day with rain is one less day of nectar foraging.

Supering For Honey Production

If the top super has activity, a honey super should be added during March. Use all the drawn and partially drawn comb before using supers of foundation.

The colony will start making new honeycomb (AKA white wax) in early April, which indicates that the goal has

changed from swarming to honey production. White wax also indicates that supers of foundation (no comb) can be added, and they will make comb as needed.

If you have a strong colony, add two or three honey supers around April 1. This will give the colony plenty of space to store honey early in the nectar flow. The workers will draw out comb in the middle frames of each super. Go back and rearrange the frames, with the foundation frames in the middle and the full frames near the edge. When they get to the top honey super, add another super.

After May 1, add supers slowly. When the top super is about half full, add a super. Expect the main nectar flow to end in mid-May.

Other Notes

I do not inspect the brood nest if the colony is making honey. If it is not making honey, I inspect it.

How many perfect days is it to make a 10-frame shallow super of honey (25 pounds)? The honey will be in multiple supers in only five perfect (no rain) days. In less than three weeks, they can make 75 pounds of honey. A colony can make over 100 pounds of honey in less than eight weeks.

All the honey your colony will make is in the hive by June 1. 🐝



SURVEY SAYS...

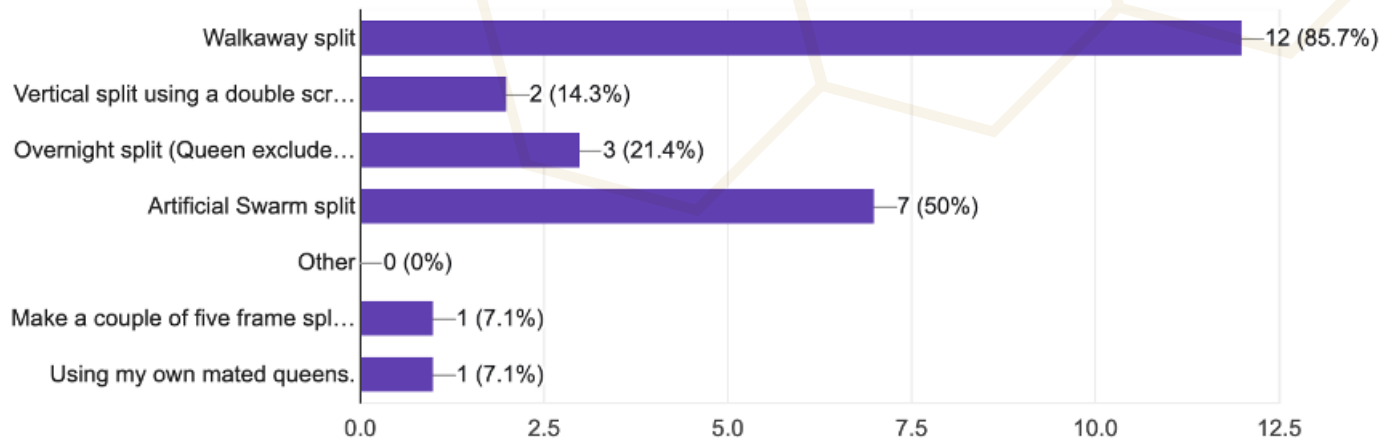
How Do You Split Your Hives?

By *Linda Tillman*

Everyone is busy this month dealing with burgeoning hive populations, checkerboarding, swarming, and splitting hives. In my own bee yard, I have made a split from every hive except one and that hive swarmed. In our survey this month we asked, **How do you split your hives?** We had 14 responses. The people answering could choose all that apply. Here is what we learned from that small sample:

What type of split do you do? Check all that apply.

14 responses



As you can see among our sample of fourteen, most people use the walkaway split. But all of the types we mentioned were chosen as well as a couple of additions. We also asked if anyone had a secret for success with splitting. **To read the answers, and all the results of the survey, click here.**

MAY'S SURVEY QUESTION:

When you read this article, April will have already begun. In April, many beekeepers focus on adding boxes during the nectar flow and keeping up with the bees' need for space. So, this month's survey is on adding boxes to your hive. For our April survey, we want to know:

How do you go about adding boxes to your hives?

Please click here to participate in the May survey of Georgia beekeepers. 





Treat Your SPEAKERS Well

By Linda Tillman

The mission of most bee clubs is education. While short courses and discussions among club members serve this function well, the speaker who offers the program at a bee club meeting is a very valuable resource that a bee club offers its members. Treating the speaker with care and nurture really makes a difference.

Because your speaker is an important source of input for your club, treat your speaker well. Make sure the budget for your club puts a high priority on funds to pay your speakers. Even your own club members who are asked to do the program for a meeting have put a lot of effort into sharing their information. Recognizing this, the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association gives their own member speakers an honorarium as well as visiting speakers.

Generally when a speaker comes to talk to your members, much energy has gone into the speaker getting to your club. People like to see examples of what you are talking about, so I always pack “show and tell” equipment to demonstrate my topic. For example, when I talk about harvesting honey without an extractor, I bring the tools involved in crush and strain to show how easy it is. When I talk about cooking with honey, I bring samples of items I have cooked for the members to try.

Your speaker has driven to your meeting site, usually at the end of a busy day. This represents cost to the speaker in time, energy, as well as money. For me, that sometimes

means a two- or three-hour drive to the speaking site, gas for the car both ways and leaving early to avoid Atlanta going-home traffic. Luckily I am retired, but someone with a full time job often has to leave work early and use vacation time or lose pay to get to the meeting on time.

While many speakers have talks on PowerPoint that they have given more than once, I always revise the talk before each presentation and often write a completely new one to fit a new topic. As those of you who have made PowerPoint presentations know, this is a lot of time and work: making the slides succinct, finding just the right photos to illustrate your points.

Some clubs take the speaker out to dinner ahead of the meeting. Every club doesn't have the budget to do that, but it is so nice when I can meet a few members ahead of time. I would gladly buy my own dinner and get to eat with other beekeepers before the meeting than eat alone, as I have in many a town on a night when I am speaking to a club. The pre-meeting dinner usually includes mutual sharing about philosophies about beekeeping and the art of hive management. Feeling that connection may make the speaker feel more comfortable.

When the talk is over, have someone in your club walk the speaker to their car. It's a way to give the speaker some positive support (“I can tell that our members really enjoyed your talk.”) And when all is said and done, write

your speaker a thank you email or note to give him/her feedback. It's really special when you can say, "The members are still talking about your example of..."

Now that I've spoken at bee club meetings all over Georgia, as well as in other states, I can say that every club takes a different approach. My worst experience occurred at a club two hours away from Atlanta. I arrived on my own, drove through a fast food restaurant's pick-up window, and carried in all my own equipment. The person introducing me said, "Our speaker tonight is... what is your name, Hon?" When I was done, they only said thank you by handing me a tube of lip balm that one of their members had made as I gathered up my things to go to my car to drive the two hours back home.

I felt frustrated with myself for not asking for an honorarium when I agreed to speak there and promised myself that I would not go there again.

My absolute best experiences have occurred when I was invited to speak to the Macon County Beekeepers Association in Franklin, North Carolina. In 2012, Tom Hill, the president, invited me, along with Bob and Suzette Binnie, to his mountain home to enjoy his prize-winning mead before dinner. This was lovely after my 2 1/2 hour drive. Afterward we went to a nearby Thai restaurant where any member of the bee club was welcome to join us

for dinner. About 10 of us had dinner together and chatted about bees. When the meal was over, I stood up to pay my check, but the club had treated me to dinner! And at the end of my talk, they gave me an honorarium. Later Tom wrote me an enthusiastic thank you email. I have now spoken to that club many times, including twice in the last year. Every experience is always supportive and positive. And every time they take me out to dinner with great conversation.

With that kind of experience, I feel valued and delighted to be asked to go there. And this happens at many bee clubs who invite me to speak. Some of my best experiences in Georgia have been at Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers, Eastern Piedmont, and Chattahoochee Valley, all clubs where I got to eat with the beekeepers as part of my visit there. I know many clubs are small and have tight budgets, but as I said, I'd be glad to pay for my own meal to have the company of other people for dinner when I am out of town to speak.

We have so many ways to learn from each other as beekeepers. The bee club provides a forum for discussion, a resource for beginners, and most importantly, speakers to bring direct knowledge and beekeeping experience to your members. Treat your speakers well and your club will be a group where good speakers love to present their talks. 🐝



Planning for JamborBEE 2025:

WE NEED YOUR FUN IDEAS

We are still in the early stages of planning for our GBA party in 2025 – **the JamborBEE**. If you haven't filled out our Help Us Plan survey, **please click here** to do so.

Filling out this survey is not about asking you physically to help us, although we will ask for volunteer help closer to the event. The survey is just about trying to plan a party/gathering that you will enjoy and want to attend. We've heard from 45 of you but would like to hear from many, many more. **Click here to share your thoughts and ideas.** 🐝



THE BEEKEEPER'S WORKBENCH:

Hive Stands I Have Known

by Kathy Bourn

So, you've decided to become a beekeeper. You've bought (or built) the woodware, and now you're ready for your bees. Your next decision is what to use for a hive stand. From specially made metal stands (*see photo 1 at right*) to hay bales, the variety seems endless. A hive stand can be as simple as a couple of concrete blocks and 2 x 4s. Or you can go the complicated route, like I did. I tend to overbuild things generally, and with my beekeeping I'm no different.

I wanted a stand that put the bottom board 12" to 18" off the ground to discourage raccoons and skunks. I wanted individual stands so that I could separate them rather than have all the hives in a row. And I wanted heavy stands, so I could strap my hives down for wind resistance and in case the deer decide they want to tip the hives over (2). What I ended up building are formed concrete stands.

First, I had to make the form (3). I built a wood mold in the shape that I wanted and then poured liquid urethane into the mold. The mold is two legs of the stand. Once the urethane cured, I could unmold it and have a form to pour concrete into (4). I embedded pieces of wire fencing in the mold for strength and stuck bolts in to make holes in the stand before the concrete cured. The holes are so I can run threaded rods through the legs and attach them to the other set of legs. I also added concrete color and pieces of mica to the mix just to spice things up.

The stands have worked well for me. During an extreme wind event a couple of years ago, the only hive that tipped over was not on one of these stands. The form was made so that the bottom board sits inside the legs, but it has drainage channels to keep water from settling there. I have eight-frame equipment, but the stands can be adjusted to accommodate ten-frame.

I recently made some wooden hive stands for a project that needed stands which could be easily moved. All those stands required were a couple of 12-foot pressure-treated 2 x 4s and screws (5). However, I did add a feature that I like. The top 2 x 4 acts as a handy shelf and I cut a slot in one side that will hold a standard metal frame rest (6). This means the rest can stay in one spot during inspection of the entire hive, rather than having to get moved from box to box.

If I need a quick and easy stand, I use a set of legs that I took off a broken outdoor chair. See, I can build simple things. . . *it just doesn't come naturally to me!* 🐝



How I Challenge My Beekeeping Craft

By George Andl

Editor's Note: George Andl keeps bees in the Morningside neighborhood of Atlanta. George works in science and thinks as a scientist does. He is a prolific reader of bee books, articles, and Internet sites. He also listens to beekeeping podcasts. George keeps a blog about his bees called **BeeSurprised**. George will be bringing us a series of articles about how he gathers information from these and other sources.

Love them or leave them, your deck and house trim attract the native solitary, wood-nesting carpenter bee. But here I'll focus on another type of native bee entirely, the mason bee. A great gateway insect to beekeeping, mason bees are docile and child- and pet-friendly. Nineteen species of mason bees (some native, some introduced) occur in Georgia. To attract the solitary mason bee, tunnel-shaped cavities (e.g., paper tubes, bamboo or holes drilled in a wood block) are needed for them to nest in.

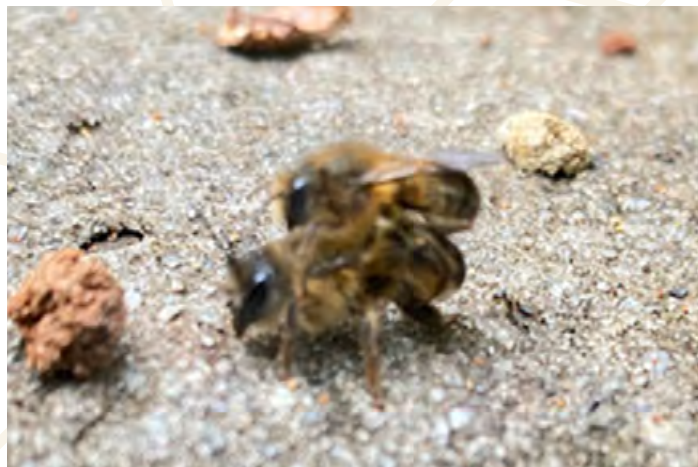
My bee "hotel" tunnels, capped with the mud many mason bees use to construct their nests, overwintered on a sunny west-facing fence. These natives fly so quickly, that my reflexes and iPhone lens limits don't usually achieve a recognizable image. It's my first time to capture a few quality (lucky) native solitary bee photos at the hotel.

I sent these two backyard photos to computer vision tools with interesting results. I also typed questions into a conversational search engine about the size of male mason bees.

- **iPhone Visual Look Up** is for identifying all objects in photos and videos taken with the iPhone (for example, food, and living things, too). Visual Look Up labeled the first photo (top right) as a *Western Honey Bee* (obviously wrong) and the last photo as *Osmia Rufa* (possibly correct?).

- **iNaturalist** is for recording observations of individual living things, particularly things that can be tied to a species name. iNat begins by combining the photos with a date and location, then adds crowdsourced identification. iNat's response to the photo bottom right was *Genus Osmia* (there are 140 species in North America).

- **Perplexity AI** is a conversational search engine that answers queries using natural language predictive text.



Perplexity's response to, "Are male mason bees smaller or larger than female mason bees?" Click on the small reference numbers that link the response.

Male mason bees are smaller than female mason bees. Females are larger than males, with shorter, thicker antennae. Mason bees are generally much smaller than honey bees or bumblebees, measuring only about 1/4 inch long¹

This size difference is a notable characteristic of mason bees, with males being noticeably smaller than females, typically around 7-15 millimeters long in most North American species³

My Xerces Society Guide Book, "**Attracting Native Pollinators**," provided some native bee identification guidance, but I needed more information. With these software tools, I learned more, but was still left wondering about what I don't know. 🐝



BEE SHORTS

100-word answers to *Spilling The Honey's* monthly question.

Our Bee Shorts question for last month's April issue was: **What is your worst/funniest/hardest swarm you've ever captured?** Here are what readers sent in answer to that question::

Holli Kircher (*Lake Hartwell Beekeepers*): The BEST swarm that I have ever caught was a swarm that moved into an empty nuc box, all on their own accord. My hives are visible from my driveway and as I was driving out one day, I saw 'a dark mass' below one of the empty nuc boxes I had sitting out in the apiary. Upon examination, it was a swarm that was moving in! They were half in, half out at that time. Truly the easiest swarm I've ever caught - now, if I could just teach them all to do that!



the bees, but spoke to me through a narrow crack in the door. (I considered her fear irrational, because I had always found swarms to not be defensive.) This swarm was different. They stung me about five times. After I got them home, they became the most defensive hive I ever had. For several years, they were a terror to my dogs, family, and visitors.

Paul Berry (*Chattahoochee Valley*): I have always been fascinated with honey bee swarms. Catching them is my passion. In a season in which I caught 43 swarms, an unusual situation arose. A row of my hives were close together in a field. In the middle of the row was a huge sweetgum tree. One afternoon I discovered seven large clusters of bees in that tree, but were they all part of one gigantic swarm? I captured each one in a separate NUC box and put them in a circle. The next morning, I had two NUCs overflowing with bees and five empties, which answered the question: How many swarms were in that tree?

Deb DeWitt (*Tara Beekeepers*):

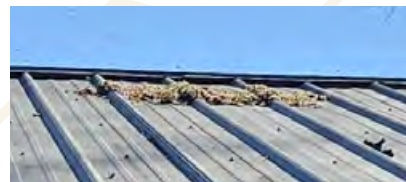
I once caught an entire swarm with a McDonald's French fry box. A friend called me because a swarm landed on her fence. I was out doing errands at the time and was near her house, so stopped by to see if I could help. Unfortunately I didn't have my bee gear with me. However, I had just left McDonald's and the French fry box was the perfect tool to scoop up the bees. The fence was a shadow box style and bees were on both sides, so it took patience. In the end, I captured the entire swarm with that box!



Dan Long (*Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers*):

On a very windy day, a swarm issued from my office observation hive then landed on the roof, way up near the top.

There was no way I was going up there but the ridges of the roof gave me an idea! I assembled a nuc box with some old comb and new frames. I used my swarm pole to start shoving it up but it was smooth enough that I would have to leave the pole in place while they moved in. I then realized the Swarm Reacher on the end would grab the rim of my gutter perfectly so I turned the pole around. It worked great! 🐝



This Month's Question:

Tell me you're a beekeeper without telling me you're a beekeeper.

Send your piece of advice in 100 words or less to **beekeeperlinda@gmail.com** And if a photo or a video is a better way for you to answer, that is perfectly fine and I'd be so happy to get it. Be sure to include your name and bee club. I'd love to hear from lots and lots of you, so do please try this!

– **Linda Tillman**



HEADS UP! A Swarm Story

By *Bobby Thanephon*

I have lots of swarm stories from almost 10 years of beekeeping. I average between two and four swarm calls a season and have absolutely seen a fair share of my own bees making the exodus from what I thought were carefully tended bee hives. I used to take it personally that they decided to leave and considered my own colonies swarming a reflection on my colony management skills. I realize, though, that swarming can be difficult to control no matter what. Hives will swarm and it is my job to recover them (and keep my neighbors appeased). What follows is what I thought would be an easy recovery story.

One day I saw a swarm emitting from my apiary and it began to settle on a smallish tree near my hives. When the bees go to a smaller tree, recovery is usually fairly easy. I was glad this swarm hadn't chosen to settle on a tall tree. Recovery from up too high is difficult and at times, it just isn't worth the risk or hassle. All I had to do for this swarm was to wait for them to settle on a branch, sharply shake the branch so the swarm falls into an empty nuc, and close up the nuc. Simple, right?

I used a step ladder to get under the cluster as the branch they were on was too small to support an extension ladder. Problem was, the cluster was just high enough that I had to reach upwards fully to grab the branch while standing on the top rung of the step ladder. Simultaneously, I held a nuc box up and under the swarm with my other hand. The nuc box was almost over my head. I was ready.

Okay... one, two, three: SHAKE!

Not a single bee fell into the nuc box. Instead, the entire cluster fell onto my head and shoulders, with many bees making their way into my shirt through the collar. I gingerly climbed down the ladder, assessed the situation and miraculously I had not been

stung. To add insult to injury, because the queen was somewhere on my person, all the flying bees started to alight on my shirt.

Moving carefully, I was able to remove my shirt and shake the bees into the nuc box, queen intact, all while only suffering one sting on the collarbone. 🐝



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Buzzle Page



Beekeeper's Word Search



Stumped?
The answer
is on
page 3.

CLICK HERE if you prefer to play this word search online.

n S b d t o n e r a o R
o w p W a x s t r i p s
i a l u c i b r o C s n
t r m r e k r o W v d a
a m e z h r t i V e i l
d l o o t e v i H a o s
n o i t a g e r g n o C
u o n b m o c y e n o H
o P h e r o m o n e s e
F a l c e c n a r t n E
n t h e p u D r o n e n
r e p u S r Q t b A C D

Find the words that the clues represent. Good luck!

1. Used to free frames
2. Male bee
3. Area where he hangs out
4. Abbreviation for where drones spend their days
5. Mother of all
6. Infertile, but a female
7. The smells have many purposes in the beehive
8. Built with secretions from beneath the abdominal plates of very young bees
9. Does not mean bees flying. Instead means a swirling departure from the hive
10. The bee's nose
11. Where pollen rides home to the hive
12. Basis for comb building when it is used
13. Used instead of foundation to allow the bees to build their own comb
14. Support of honey, pollen and brood
15. Where eggs live until the queen needs them
16. You don't want this directly facing your neighbor's yard
17. The sound that means The Queen is DEAD
18. Like giving the bees a new attic for storage
19. Protects the keeper's face
20. Your own from your own bees is always the best in the world

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

As part of our mission statement of educating and training new beekeepers, we have "adopted" two young boys who are interested in becoming beekeepers. **Vajk**, 13 years old, and **Attila**, 11, took possession of their nucs and transferred them into deep hives. Helping these young beekeepers is the club's vice president **Bill Emery** (photo below left). The club provided all the materials for these potential master beekeepers to get their start. 🐝



Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association

Heart of Georgia Beekeepers met Tuesday, March 19th at the Argene Claxton Canning Plant in Perry. The program, "A Year in the Bee Yard," was presented by **Olivia Menard** via Zoom. Olivia had a very informative PowerPoint and discussed what duties/activities should be performed each month.

Please join us April 16th for our mentoring session which begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting which begins at 7:00 PM. Our program will be "How Bees Make Honey." We look forward to seeing you! **Check us out on Facebook** or at hogba.org 🐝



HOGBA members listening to Olivia's presentation.

Coweta Beekeepers Association

Like our bees, beekeepers are social animals. The Coweta Beekeepers Association encourages this by having a monthly Social Night. CBA members and guests meet at the Redneck Gourmet in Newnan from 6 to 8 pm (or whenever you arrive and leave). There, you'll find folks talking about bees and life on the fourth Monday of the month.

CBA met on March 11. Our speaker, **Julia Mahood**, spoke on various types of splits and the reason to use each. In the mentoring session that always precedes the meeting, CBA member **Corey Matheson**, discussed usage of the Snelgrove (double-screen) Board. The next meeting on April 8 will feature **Marcus Pollard** discussing Swarms and Swarm Control. **Corey Matheson** will again lead the mentoring session with a discussion of Swarm Traps/Trapping. 🐝



Lake Hartwell Beekeepers Association

Interest in honey bees can start at any age. To encourage this, LHBA members **Holli Kircher** and **Kathy Bourn** taught students at the Ag/Career Day for Hartwell Elementary School. The school combined its Career Day with lessons about the agriculture business. Hart School System's AgriScience Center opened to over 400 students. They learned about the life cycle of honey bees, products from the hive, and what it takes to be a beekeeper. The observation hive with live bees was a big hit of course. 🐝



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Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

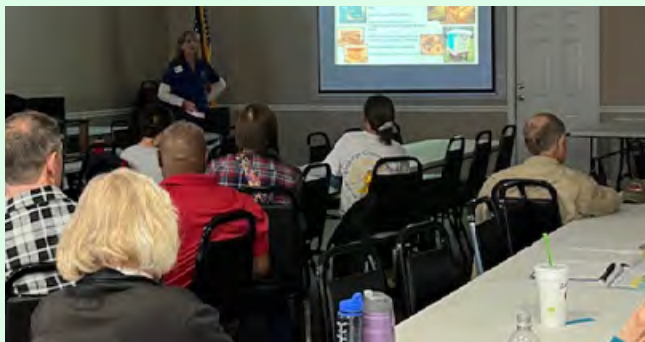
At MABA's April meeting (April 8, 6:30 pm), Master Photographer and Journeyman Beekeeper **Georgia Zumwalt**, will share how she photographs honey bees, including tips on lighting, timing, composition and lens choices. She will also explain how to give images their best chances of taking home ribbons in photographic competitions like the upcoming Georgia Beekeepers Association Honey Show in September. Georgia is the past president of the Northeast Georgia Mountain Beekeepers Association, a photographic educator, and is the Georgia State Representative for the elite American Society of Photographers.

MABA's April meeting will also include the club's Beekeeping Book Swap. Attendees are invited to bring beekeeping books they're ready to part with, then pick and choose from the books brought by others. MABA meets in Heritage Hall, inside Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Rd., Atlanta, GA in Buckhead. On arrival, check-in at the welcome table to be entered into our monthly door prize drawing. 🐝



Oglethorpe County Bee Club

On Monday, March 18th, the Oglethorpe County Bee Club was fortunate to have **Kathy Bourn** present to about 30 OCBC members in attendance. Her topic was "Going Long: Your Bees, Your Back, and Your Bottom Line," an in-depth discussion of how to get away from lifting those heavy boxes by using hive bodies such as the Long Langstroth, Layens, and Top Bars (her favorite). Her talk was well received, and she probably converted a few of us "old timers" with bad backs! 🐝



SOWEGA Beekeepers Club

Sowega Beekeepers Club annual Bee School Event was a big success. Fifty-six soon-to-be beekeepers from all over the state of Georgia participated in the day long event at Albany State University in late February. **Amber Perkinson**, club president and **Stan Okon**, club vice president, presided over topics that ranged from beekeeping equipment and maintaining apiaries to bee pests and honey production. Participants followed up on the training they learned by attending club events. The second Thursday March club meeting began with a smoker lighting lesson followed by Sunday's Bee Lab at Chehaw Park where Bee School attendees participated in introducing bee packages to hives in the club's apiary. SOWEGA Beekeepers Club appreciates the financial support GBA provides and is committed to use these funds to educate and engage beekeepers in southwest Georgia. 🐝

