I would like to thank all of you for the confidence in me in choosing me to be State President. I will endeavor to continue the professionalism of this office and uphold the responsibilities that are expected of me. We all know that any leader is only as good as the people around him. I want to thank those who have chosen to stand with me this year:

- Mary Cahill-Roberts as Vice President;
- Rose-Anne Fielder as Treasurer,
- Andy Bailey as Secretary,
- Brutz English as North GA Director;
- Steve Prince as Middle GA Director and
- Steve Cobb as South GA Director.
And let's don't forget Linda Tillman and Gina Gallucci who Spill the Honey and Bill Owens, our link to the outside world as the Webmaster. I also want to thank all those who worked so hard at putting the fall meeting together. The sponsoring clubs, the Heritage Center, and everyone else who committed so much time, money and effort; please accept everyone's gratitude.

Also thanks to all who attended our annual meeting this year at the Gwinnett Heritage Center. Your attendance there is the life blood of our organization. I met so many new folks and visited with members whom I have met before. One of the highlights of this year’s meeting was that we approved three new clubs for inclusion into the GBA. Those were Lake Country; East Metro and Ogeechee Beekeepers in Statesboro. We welcome them and all their members. We encourage them to get involved with Georgia Beekeepers Association.

We discussed The GBA membership quite a bit at this meeting and with 24 clubs throughout the state, we have approximately 1200 individual club members, but less than 200 of those are actual members of GBA. Only about 16% of Georgia's known beekeepers are involved with GBA. Club presidents, let’s go to work and help our numbers grow. Your GBA officers are willing to help out anyway we can. I would like to report at our next meeting a much greater number. My contact info as well as the other officers is listed on the GBA website. Again, thank you all for your support and I hope to see and hear from you throughout the year.

**Bear Kelley**,  
GBA President

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**From our outgoing president:**

As I end three years of combined service as President and Vice President of GA Beekeepers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the club and projects during my tenure and wish Bear Kelley success as he becomes the new president. Initiating a newsletter; welcoming three new local clubs; encouraging more member participation throughout all areas of the state; appointing a proactive legislative committee; developing a rapport with national agricultural lobbyists; extending the relationship with the Georgia Farm Bureau; and promoting unity and camaraderie among members help define my tenure. I will continue to be an active member in our club as we all strive to improve life for the "girls" as we save the world, one bee at a time.

**Jerry Edwards**,  
Past President, GBA
**Georgia Beekeeper of the Year**

Bruce Morgan is our 2013 Georgia Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year. Bruce began beekeeping in 2006 after his son-in-law, Dr. Jamie Ellis, asked him to build some cypress hives for him. He found that his woodworking skills and beekeeping went hand in hand, and over the years built his apiary up to about 60 colonies.

He respects his bees, and willingly shares his experience, knowledge, and even his extractor when needed. He is a welcomed mentor to anyone in need.

Bruce, father of Dr. Amanda Ellis who is also a beekeeper, started the Lake Country Beekeepers Association last year. They already have over 50 supportive members representing an eight county area. He is the current President and has already been an instrumental part of the club’s first beekeeping short course held earlier this year. Beekeeping is a labor of love for him, as he does bee removals, moves bees to Sourwood, sells honey, and builds and sells beekeeping equipment in the Sparta area. His club members admire and respect his skills and willingness to help educate others.

Congratulations to Bruce Morgan

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**Try this at home or right this very second:**

If you have a smart phone and a scanning App, scan this QR code (made for us by our own Bear Kelley) and see where it takes you!

If you need a scanning App, find it free from your phone App Store
At this year’s Fall 2013 Georgia Beekeeper’s Association Meeting, Jay Parsons won the 6/3 frame honey extractor which was donated to the raffle by Mann Lake Bee Supplies.

Jay has been very fortunate to have won a number of the GBA raffles over the last few years and would like to share this fortune with his home club, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers.

He said that he would like to have this extractor made available to other club members over the next year who may not otherwise have a way to process their honey. At the end of this next bee year the extractor may have to give up its communal duties and be offered up for a new owner at MABAs next fall auction.

Another State Park Beehive!

Rozalyn M. Todd just received a grant from Beautification Environment Education (BEE) to place a beehive near the lake at Panola Mountain State Park in Lithonia, Ga. The Busy Buzz Club of DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia will place the beehive at the park in March, 2014. Rozalyn received her certification with Bear as a honey judge in May, 2013.

Survey Results from September:

We wanted to know how you harvest honey. Thirty-four of you answered our question about honey harvest. Here are the results:

- 82.4% of you use an extractor
- 29.4% of you harvest by crush and strain
- 17.6% of you make cut comb honey
- 17.6% of you make chunk honey
- 8.8% of you make creamed honey

Our October topic is about the meeting at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on Sept 20-21. If you didn't go, we want to know why you didn’t go. And if you did, we want your feedback. To participate in this month’s survey, Click here.
Beekeeping with African Bees in Mawali
by John Wingfield

At our August meeting of the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association, Mr Tom Columbus spoke about his experiences in Malawi, Africa with African bees. These bees were the original African bees. The strain we deal with are a hybrid of European and these African bees.

He introduced people of Malawi to beekeeping while there originally as a Peace Corp volunteer. His presentation was most interesting and very informative. Yes, the African bees are aggressive and have a tendency to swarm more than their European cousins. When they swarm they seek a home similar to the home that they just abandoned.

He also mentioned that there are no glass production facilities in Malawi so they used tin cans and old bottles to deliver their honey. Hygiene was also a problem. He stayed in Malawi for an extended period of years before returning to the USA.

He had some very interesting ideas about the future of beekeeping. According to him we will all be raising African bees in the future. He has a website. The link is: [http://www.africanbees.net/index.html](http://www.africanbees.net/index.html). Be certain to visit his page "Scutellata" found at the top of the page. In fact you might want to visit all of his web site pages. They make you appreciate that you live here in the USA.

Dear Aunt Bee,

This year I decided to enter creamed honey in the honey contest. Some of my honey from last year was crystallizing so I used that to make the creamed honey. I thought it was delicious, but the judges said it tasted like last year’s honey. I was bummed.

How did they know? How can I use last year’s honey without it tasting like last year’s honey?

Signed,
Down and Disappointed

Dear Down and Disappointed,

Keep your bottled honey in the freezer to maintain its freshness and flavor. All honey begins to ferment a little under the lid after a while, but in the freezer this process is kept at bay. While it is still last year’s honey, honey that has been stored in the freezer can be used to make this year’s creamed honey without the last year’s taste.

Good luck in the next contest.

Signed,
Your Aunt Bee

(hint contributed originally by Jim Ovbey and expanded by Keith Fielder)

"That which is not good for the bee-hive cannot be good for the bees."
Marcus Aurelius
**Why a honey face mask?**

Did you ever try a honey mask or use honey in your skin care regime? Honey is a humectant, which means it will attract and keep moisture inside your skin. This hydration makes that your skin supple, elastic and silky soft. Honey also has anti-oxidant properties which play an important role in protecting your skin against damage from UV (ultra violet) sunlight. The darker the honey the stronger the anti-oxidant effect.

**How to do it:**

Warm up the honey until it becomes liquid (not too hot!) by putting it in a small glass or metal bowl which is immersed in hot water. This way you have more control and it doesn't burn. When it is nice and warm smooth the honey gently and equally with a facial mask brush or spatula on your clean face and neck; keep the eye area clear. Now lie down, relax and leave the mask on for 15-20 minutes. Wash it off with warm water, end with a splash of cold; pat your skin dry with a clean towel. Finally apply a moisturizer, this way you "seal" your skin to keep the water inside.

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**Ask 10 Beekeepers A Question:**

**Checking for Varroa**

A basic varroa trap: Beneath the screened bottom board, put a white piece of corrugated board spread with something sticky like Vaseline or use contact paper. Leave this trap in the colony for 2 days and then take it out to count the mites. In Georgia, the threshold to treat was set at 40 mites per day.

**Jay Parson:** I like to keep my in-box time to a minimum, as do the bees. I'll stay with the sticky board. You can give it a quick spray with "Pam" or Vaseline. Slide the lightweight panel in under the screened bottom board and you're done. Come back in 24 hours or 3 days and do a quick count. Three days is nice because you can do a count and then average to get your 24 hour rate. I like using the sticky board during a miticide treatment as then you get a big visual of how effective the treatment is.

**Virginia Webb:** The sticky board drop and count is the easiest.

**Bill Owens:** Varroa count? Huh? I can see how they are if the hive survived!

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**Street Cred:**

A really informative article on the Small Hive Beetle can be found here.
**Current Georgia Beekeepers Association Officers:**

President:  Bear Kelley  
Vice President:  Mary Cahill Roberts  
Secretary:  Andy Bailey  
Treasurer:  Rose-Anne Fielder  
Past President:  Jerry Edwards  
North Georgia Director:  Brutz English  
Middle Georgia Director:  Steve Prince  
South Georgia Director:  Steve Cobb  
Newsletter Editors:  Gina Gallucci and Linda Tillman  
Webmaster:  Bill Owens  

**Upcoming Bee Events:**

**October 4: Georgia National Fair Honey Show**
Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, Georgia  
GBA Members Free; non GBA Members $15 (includes 1 year GBA membership)  
[More Information, click here](#)