



**CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF BEEKEEPING**

# WELCOME! GEORGIA BEEKEEPERS



## 2020 OFFICERS

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*Linda Tillman*

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## DIRECTORS

*Jennifer Berry*

*Bobby Chaisson*

*Brutz English*

*David Logue*

*Steve Esau*

*Sophia Price*

*Bobby Torbush*

## Celebrate!

The Georgia Beekeepers Association is 100 years old this year and is 1000 members strong. We began as a small group of beekeepers meeting in Waycross, Georgia and are now a state-wide group offering two large conferences every year with almost fifty clubs across the state. We have programs in the prisons, offer training to established as well as junior beekeepers, and unite clubs in the various areas of the state through the work of our directors on the GBA Board. Cars around the state are sporting our honey bee license plate. Among our members are beginners, hobbyists, Master Beekeepers, sideliners, and commercial beekeepers alike. Welcome to our fall conference!

## Thank you for “Zooming” in to join us.

These are unprecedented times and we welcome the opportunity to be creative in how we hold our conference. Meeting virtually is a way for us to have fun, learn a lot and stay healthy all at the same time. We want to keep our members, speakers, and guests as safe as possible.

## Instructions for joining our Keynote and Breakout sessions

You will receive these instructions by email before the conference in plenty of time to be able to join in.

## The Virtual Honey Shows

Our honey show committee decided to take on two virtual honey shows and you can enter them both. By registering for this conference, you can enter the GBA Honey Show and your instructions are in your confirmation email. You can also enter the GBA National Black Jar Contest by [clicking on this link](#).

## Visit Our Vendors

Oh, of course you can't, but we will be sharing our vendors' information with you throughout the conference and hope you will find items to purchase online just as if you had been able to wander into their booths in the conference center.

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:45 – 9:00 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:00 – 9:45 **KEYNOTE 1**

*Jamie Ellis*: WHAT IS KILLING OUR BEES (AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT)?

Beekeeping is harder than ever. Colony loss rates are high in many areas around the world. Old pests and pathogens continue to cause problems. New pests and pathogens threaten colony health. Herein, Dr. Ellis will discuss what is killing bees around the world and what can be done to reduce the losses.

9:50 – 10:00 BREAK– Visit Virtual Vendors

10:00 – 10:50 **BREAKOUT A** (see page 7 for details)

10:50 – 11:40 **KEYNOTE 2**

*Cindy Bee*: THE APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPING COLLECTIVE –

AN APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING IN POVERTY-STRICKEN COMMUNITIES

This talk discusses the efforts to connect the unemployed workforce of Appalachia with the power of beekeeping as a supplement for income. The approach is two-fold: teaching beekeeping for a source of income, and reforesting the sections of mountains devastated by coal mining.

11:40 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:50 **KEYNOTE 3**

*David Tarpy*: DIAGNOSING QUEEN PROBLEMS: IS IT THE QUEEN, THE COLONY, BOTH, OR NEITHER?!

Practical advice–based on empirical research–looking at different symptoms and attributing whether or not the problem is the queen’s fault. A lesson in showing how we blame the queen way more often than it’s actually her fault.

1:50 – 2:00 BREAK– Visit Virtual Vendors

2:00 – 2:50 **KEYNOTE 4**

*Keith Delaplane*: THIRTY YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP: RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN UGA AND GBA

A retrospective of the fruitful collaborations between GBA and UGA and the luminous personalities who made it possible.

2:50 – 3:10 **Honey Show Awards Announced**

3:15 – 3:30 Honey show video viewing with Brutz

3:30 – 3:45 Linda says “Good evening.”



# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:30 – 8:45 **VOTE** for President/Vice-President or visit vendors

8:45 – 9:00 Announcements & Door prizes

9:00 – 10:00 **GBA Business Meeting and Buzz Fund presentations**

*Beekeeper of the Year Announced*

10:00 – 10:10 BREAK– Visit Virtual Vendors

10:10 – 11:00 **KEYNOTE 5**

*Cindy Bee:* BEEKEEPING AS A SUPER POWER – SOME TIPS AND TRICKS ALONG THE WAY

There are a few things I've learned that make things more salient, or just plain make things easier. Doing things that work frees us to listen to that call to keep bees, that call we keep responding to despite all the challenges.

11:05 – 11:55 **BREAKOUT B** (see page 7 for details)

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:50 **KEYNOTE 6**

*Jamie Ellis:* THE BIRDS AND THE BEES: WELL, JUST THE BEES

Individual honey bees and honey bee colonies both reproduce. In this lecture, you will learn about the mating and reproductive habits of queen and drone honey bees. The reproduction of individual bees will be placed in a larger context with that of colony-level reproduction, a feat accomplished by the swarm.

1:50 – 2:35 **KEYNOTE 7**

*David Tarpy:* HONEY BEES: MYTHOLOGY, RELIGION, WARFARE, AND POLITICS

This is an interesting confluence of how honey bees have been woven into society from ancient times to the modern day. Many cultures have, and still do, consider honey bees as otherworldly. Hear tales and stories about bees that have arisen over the centuries. Moreover, you'll be surprised how bees have been used, both directly and indirectly, in ancient and modern warfare!

2:35 – 2:45 BREAK – Visit Virtual Vendors

2:45 – 3:30 **KEYNOTE 8**

*Virginia Webb:* GBA – OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Why did 65 men and women want to organize a beekeeping association for Georgia beekeepers? A lot has happened since they organized.

3:30 – 3:35 Linda says "Good-bye."



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Keith Delaplane, Ph.D** has served as Professor of Entomology and director of the UGA Honey Bee Program since January 1990. He has worked with numerous GBA members over the years on a variety of research and education projects.



**Jamie Ellis, Ph.D** is the Gahan Endowed 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 (USA) and a PhD in entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa.



**Cindy Bee** is a Master Beekeeper and grew up in Tennessee keeping bees with her father. She has dedicated herself to beekeeping for over 50 years. Currently she runs the Virginia division of the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective and mentors over 40 beekeepers. Teaching the importance of beekeeping is a life-long passion.



**David Tarpy, Ph.D** is Professor of Entomology at North Carolina State University since 2003. He maintains a web site to disseminate information about honey bees, spearheads extension projects, and launched the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES) – an online resource for knowledge about bees. His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens to improve the health of queens and their colonies.



**Virginia Webb** is a third generation beekeeper. She and her late husband Carl Webb started MtnHoney, a commercial beekeeping operation in Habersham County Georgia. Virginia has taught beekeeping and beeswax products for years. She has served GBA in multiple ways over the years.



# BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



**Bethany Beck** is a graduate of Covenant College with a bachelor's in Environmental Biology.



**Jennifer Berry** is the research professional for the UGA Honey Bee Lab. Her passions include varroa and SHB research, educating the public about the importance of pollinators, and teaching beekeeping. She also operates Honey Pond Farm where she sells quality nucleus colonies and teaches classes.



**Paul Berry** started keeping bees in 1988, influenced by a neighbor who was a beekeeper. He took a break after a few years due to lack of time but restarted in 2002. Paul attained the level of Master Beekeeper after going through the UGA Master Beekeeping Program at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.



**Rebecca Bycott** is writer, educator and strategic communications consultant based in Washington, D.C., who specializes in helping businesses and organizations develop meaningful connections with their audiences through digital engagement. Her creative campaigns have supported the U.S. Department of State, higher education, nonprofits and companies worldwide. She has advised the GBA License Plate Proceeds Committee.



**Brutz English** is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and an internationally certified honey judge. He is Senior Presiding Judge and Director of Welsh Honey Judge Training Program at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute. Brutz chairs the GBA Honey Show Committee. He is a small-scale commercial honey producer and packer. He says he serves as consigliere to the Queen bee!



**Keith Fielder** is a certified Welsh honey judge and a Georgia Master Beekeeper. He has taught beekeeping around the world. He is a frequent presenter at GBA, EAS, and Young Harris. He is the county extension coordinator for Putnam County. Keith is a sideline beekeeper and he and his wife Roseanne market honey and beeswax products. He was President of GBA in 2006 - 2007.



**Julia Mahood** is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and has kept bees since 2004. A past president of MABA, she was the GBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2018.



**Karen Palmer** has been a beekeeper since 2012 and owner of Honey Please. She focuses on bee removals, nucs and honey. The "Queen bee" of around 75 colonies at her farm, she has found creative ways to recycle materials brought home from work and reusing it in her beekeeping.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*At every GBA conference, we offer breakouts to cover important needs. We have a breakout for ongoing honey judge certification (Honey Show Cookery); one for support for local clubs (Creating a Buzz using Social Media); and others with practical beekeeping focus.*

## SESSION A

**FRIDAY** SESSION A • 10:00 -10:50

### **Beekeeping on the Cheap • Karen Palmer**

For people who enjoy DIY projects and getting the most for their money beekeeping doesn't have to be expensive and can help you be creative. Bees can be kept in a variety of boxes and materials. You'll learn how to be resourceful and cut costs while still being practical.

### **The art of splitting hives and manipulating queens**

• **Paul Berry**

We will discuss increasing beehives in an apiary by splitting hives, when to do it and how to do it. Integral with splitting hives is the manipulation of queens in the process. We will discuss how to handle the queen when doing splits. Suggestions on how to find her and what to do with her.

### **Candy Making with Honey • Bethany Beck**

Learn to make Lollipops using your honey. These make wonderful gifts. Wrap them in beeswax wraps for an extra touch.

### **Planting Pollinator Smorgasbords • Jennifer Berry**

Thankfully, there seems to be a trend towards planting more forage for pollinators. Maybe the day where acres of grass (which needs to be mowed, weeded, sprayed, fertilized, sprayed again and watered), are a thing of the past. This session will open up discussion about what plants work for our region. Let's help each other figure out what best to feed those that feed us!



## SESSION B

**SATURDAY** SESSION B • 11:05 -11:55

### **Honey Show Cookery • Brutz English**

Learn about the ins and outs of preparing and exhibiting baked goods, cookery, and other food items made with honey. We will cover recipes, ingredients, conversions, and substitutions. We will discuss variables that can affect the finished product, including ingredient selection, techniques, honey varietals, and even the weather. We will also cover typical judging criteria and honey show rules.

### **Creating a Buzz About Beekeeping Through Social Media**

• **Rebecca Bycott**

Does your club use social media to share activities and updates? Are you sometimes unsure if you're reaching anyone? You're not alone! The good news? With a few creative strategies in place, you can create a buzz, build community and reach potential members. This talk will give you some go-to resources and ideas to try.

### **Making Show Quality Creamed Honey • Keith Fielder**

Creamed honey is a value added product every bee keeper should know how to make. This program details the Dyce method of making creamed honey which is simple and provides consistent results.

### **Three invaders in 30 years: Three pests, their impacts, and why so different • Keith Delaplaine**

In the 30 years I've worked at UGA I've witnessed the introduction of tracheal mites, Varroa mites, and small hive beetles. The biology and economic impacts of these three are markedly different, and this talk will show how natural history affects the virulence of any pest and our options in managing it.

### **Drones for Drones • Julia Mahood**

Learn all about the bad boys of the hive and how to find their stomping grounds- drone congregation areas - using a mechanical drone!