



# 2021 Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 • GAINESVILLE, GA

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### DR. JENNIFER LEAVEY

Dr. Jennifer Leavey is the director of the Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project. She also serves as the Assistant Dean for Faculty Development in the College of Sciences at Georgia Tech where she has been a biological sciences faculty member since 2005.



### DR. VICTORIA SOROKER

Dr. Victoria Soroker is a specialist in chemical ecology of arthropods and serves as a scientific director of the research apiary at Department of Entomology's Institute of Plant Protection, Agricultural Research Organization, The Volcani Center in Israel. For the last 13 years, she and her research team have been studying the interaction between the honey bee and its main pest, the Varroa mite.



**EVERY BEEKEEPER IS A SCIENTIST** – *Beekeepers have a natural curiosity and are always experimenting. In this session, we will explore ways to save time and energy by using the tools of science to improve the health and productivity of your hives. We will discuss how to find and use research papers, how to design experiments, and how to contribute to or start "citizen" science projects. (Saturday, 1 pm)*

### DR. JONATHAN LUNDGREN

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren is an agroecologist, Director of ECDYSIS Foundation, and CEO for Blue Dasher Farm. Lundgren's research and education programs are helping applied science evolve in ways that foster the movement in regenerative agriculture.



**WE MUST HEAL THE SOIL TO SAVE THE BEES** (Friday, 10 am)

**UNPREDICTED RISKS OF PESTICIDES** (Friday, 4 pm)

### DR. THOMAS D. SEELEY

Dr. Thomas D. Seeley is a retired professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He continues to do research on the behavior and social life of honey bees. Tom is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees while a high school student when he caught a swarm.



**THE BEE HIVE AS HONEY FACTORY** – *This talk is about how a honey bee colony gathers and processes its nectar efficiently, despite tremendous day-to-day differences in nectar availability. An important part of the organization of honey production is the division of labor between nectar foragers and nectar storers. We will see how the bees keep the rates of nectar collecting and nectar processing in balance. (Friday, 1:15 pm)*

**THE HONEY BEE COLONY AS AN INFORMATION CENTER** – *A honey bee colony must solve the problem of keeping its foragers optimally allocated among flower patches. Those that are large and highly profitable should be allocated many foragers, while those that are small or less profitable should be allocated relatively few foragers. We will look at how a honey bee colony solves this highly dynamic problem. (Saturday, 4 pm)*

**HONEY BEE PHEROMONES** – *Efficient communication system is prerequisite for any successful society. Honey bee colony is definitely an example for such a society with an excellent communication that is largely based on chemical signals –pheromones. The signals are produced by all colony members but differ in the content. In my presentation I will present a few key messages operating in honeybee colony, their content and role in colony function. (Friday, 9:15 am)*

**VARROA: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?** – *Varroa mite is considered the major problem of todays' apiculture almost world wide. What makes it so dangerous and how can we control it in sustainable manner are the problems that most of us apiculturists or "bee people" are worried about. In this talk I will present you with the research in this area that is conducted in my laboratory. (Saturday, 10 am)*

### DR. JAMES E. TEW

Dr. James E. Tew is an Emeritus Faculty member at The Ohio State University and a beekeeper. He contributes articles to national beekeeping publications and has written four beekeeping books, a chapter in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, and was a co-author of *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*.



**BEEKEEPING NOT BOOKKEEPING** – *Dr. Tew will talk about how he accidentally discovered the world of beekeeping, and how it changed his life (Friday Dinner, 6:15 pm)*

**IS IT REALLY THE QUEEN'S FAULT?** – *The queen is frequently blamed for everything in the colony – both good and bad. Basic recommendations abound, but the challenge is in the details. When to replace, how to replace, how much to pay for what kind of queen are some questions that all beekeepers must answer. It's not easy. (Saturday, 1:45 pm)*

**FOR BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, SEE BACK PAGE.**



**GBA ELECTION VOTING:** Use your phone and the election QR code to link to the GBA election poll. For those without a smart phone, or who prefer to vote via laptop, there will be computer available on Friday morning at the registration table until 11 am.



**RAFFLE:** Buy your raffle tickets throughout the conference at the registration table. Raffle drawing will be held on Saturday at 4:45 pm.

## THURSDAY, SEPT 23RD

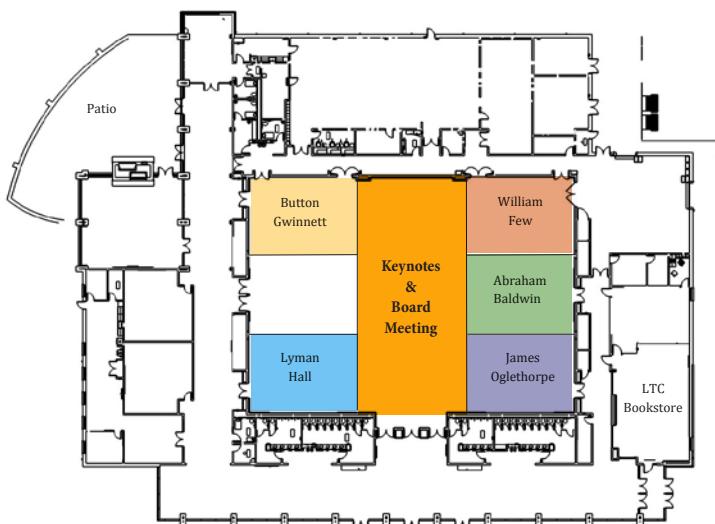
9:00-4:00	Welsh Honey Judge training (Ramsey Conference Center, Lyman Hall)
9:00-12:00	Journeyman and Master lectures (Lanier Technical College Economic Development Center, Lanier Way and Oakwood Lane, Room 5164 and 5165)
1:30-4:00	Journeyman and Master testing and audits (Lanier Technical College Economic Development Center, Lanier Way and Oakwood Lane, Room 5164 and 5165)
3-4:30	Honey Show entries accepted
4:30-6:00	GBA Board Meeting
6:00	⚠️ Dinner on your own. (O'Charlies discount for GBA members)

## FRIDAY, SEPT 24TH

7:15-9:00	Honey Show entries accepted
7:45	Doors open, Registration
8:00	Vote GBA Election voting opens
9:00	Opening remarks – <b>Gina Gallucci</b> , GBA president
9:15	<b>KEYNOTE: Honey Bee Pheromones – Dr. Victoria Soroker</b>
10:00	<b>KEYNOTE: We Must Heal The Soil To Save The Bees – Dr. Jonathan Lundgren</b>
10:45	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
11:00	Vote GBA Election voting closes
11:15	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS A*</b>
	Results from Current Oxalic acid Research – <b>Jennifer Berry</b> (Location: William Few Room)
	How I Became A Commercial Beekeeper – <b>Barry Hart</b> (Location: James Oglethorpe Room)
	Beekeeping Gadgets for the Hobbyist – <b>Emily Heath</b> (Location: Button Gwinnett Room)
	Observations of Heat Treatment for Varroa Control – <b>David Hollomon and David Kirslis</b> (Location: Abraham Baldwin Room)
	Observation Hives – <b>Dan Long</b> (Location: Lyman Hall)
	Bee Yard Basics: How to do a Hive Inspection – <b>Bobby Chaisson</b> (Location: Outdoors)
12:00	⚠️ Lunch
1:00	Announcements & Door Prizes
1:15	<b>KEYNOTE: The Bee Hive as a Honey Factory – Dr. Tom Seeley</b>
2:00	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
2:30	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS B</b> (Repeat of Breakout A above, except: <b>Bobby Chaisson's</b> outdoors Bee Yard Basics program will be How to Find and Mark Queens)
3:30	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
4:00	<b>KEYNOTE: Unpredicted Risks of Pesticides – Dr. Jonathan Lundgren</b>
4:30	Visit our vendors and/or buy GBA raffle tickets
5:00	Honey show open for viewing
5:30	Beer & Wine
6:00	⚠️ Dinner (You must register and pay for the dinner in advance.)
6:15	Dinner Speaker: Beekeeping not Bookkeeping – <b>Dr. Jim Tew</b>
6:45	Journeyman and Master testing awarded, Beekeeper of the Year and Honey Show awards

## SATURDAY, SEPT 25TH

7:45	President's Breakfast
8:30	Vote in GBA elections and/or visit our vendors
8:45	Announcements & Door Prizes
9:00	GBA Business Meeting /Buzz Fund
10:00	<b>KEYNOTE: Varroa: What Can We Do About It? – Dr. Victoria Soroker</b>
10:45	Announcements & Door Prizes
11:00	Visit our vendors
11:15	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS C*</b>
	Working with Beeswax – <b>Brutz English</b> (Location: William Few Room)
	Who-sa-zygous-whatzis? – <b>Olivia Menard</b> (Location: James Oglethorpe Room)
	A Bee Welcome – <b>Bobby Colson</b> (Location: Button Gwinnett Room)
	How to Make Creamed Honey – <b>Bobby Thanephon</b> (Location: Abraham Baldwin Room)
	High Quality Nucs – <b>Jimmy Gatt</b> (Location: Lyman Hall)
	Bee Yard Basics: How to do a Hive Inspection – <b>Bobby Chaisson</b> (Location: Outdoors)
12:00	⚠️ Lunch
12:45	Announcement of GBA Election Results
1:00	<b>KEYNOTE: Every Beekeeper is a Scientist – Dr. Jennifer Leavey</b>
1:45	<b>KEYNOTE: Is It Really The Queen's Fault? – Dr. Jim Tew</b>
2:30	Final Vendor Break
2:45	Ice Cream and cookies from local clubs
3:00	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS D</b> (Repeat of Breakout C above, except: <b>Bobby Chaisson's</b> outdoors Bee Yard Basics program will be How to Find and Mark Queens)
3:45	Break
4:00	<b>KEYNOTE: The Honey Bee Colony as an Information Center – Dr. Tom Seeley</b>
4:45	⚠️ Raffle drawings
5:00	Conference ends





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# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SEE RAMSEY  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
MAP ON PAGE 3

ROOM	FRIDAY SESSIONS (A & B)	SATURDAY SESSIONS (C & D)
WILLIAM FEW	<p><b>RESULTS FROM CURRENT OXALIC ACID RESEARCH -</b> Oxalic acid, found in some of our favorite veggies, front yards and hardware stores, is used to reduce populations of Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies. We will discuss the results of several oxalic acid research projects that have just been completed at UGA and other research labs here in the US and abroad.</p> <p><b>Jennifer Berry</b> has been conducting research and apicultural extension duties at the UGA Honey Bee Lab for 21 years. Her main objective has been to educate beekeepers on how to keep colonies alive. This fall, she will be teaching a beekeeping course on the UGA campus, the first in 19 years.</p>	<p><b>WORKING WITH BEESWAX -</b> How to get the best quality, best looking beeswax from your hives to the honey show. Methods and techniques on rendering, cleaning, handling, and salvaging beeswax. Tips on what honey show judges are looking for (both good and bad), and how to get your beeswax to stand out at the honey show!</p> <p><b>Brutz English</b> is a UGA Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh Honey Judge. He is the Director for the Welsh Honey Judge training program at the Young-Harris Beekeeping Institute. He is the Chairman of the GBA Honey Show Committee, and he was the GBA's 2017 Beekeeper of the Year.</p>
JAMES OGLETHORPE	<p><b>HOW I BECAME A COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPER -</b> Commercial beekeeper Barry Hart will present how he got into bees and all the changes he's seen in his 37 years. He will discuss a typical year of beekeeping for him.</p> <p><b>Barry Hart</b> has been a beekeeper for 37 years. He runs around 3,600 hives. He does pollination and honey production. He also makes nucs to sell in the spring. Barry's home base is Fargo, Georgia and he moves bees to California, Florida, and Michigan.</p>	<p><b>WHO-SA-ZYGOUS-WHAT-SIS? -</b> Join Olivia Menard for a memorable review of honey bee biology. Why do honey bees make honey? How do bees regulate nest temperature? What, exactly, do bees "do" with all those different glands? We will explore these questions and more in this class.</p> <p><b>Olivia Menard</b> is a certified beekeeper in Lawrenceville, GA, and the beekeeper for Hurricane Hives at Monroe Area High School. An aerospace engineer by trade, Olivia began keeping bees to help her garden and practice mindfulness. Today she shares the craft of beekeeping with others through mentoring and program development.</p>
BUTTON GWINNETT	<p><b>BEEKEEPING GADGETS FOR THE HOBBYIST -</b> Would you like to know about ventilation boxes, sun/rain visors, and Russian scions; a method to prevent ants which has been successful for Emily? Unless you have only one hive, it can be daunting to try and remember what is going on in each hive. Emily will tell you about an app and red/green brick method that she uses.</p> <p><b>Emily Heath</b> has been a beekeeper since 2015. She is a Master Gardener, extension volunteer, and a certified beekeeper from UGA. Emily lives in Perry, but is originally from Alabama. She enjoys volunteering at her church and local schools as well as educating the public about bees and gardening.</p>	<p><b>A BEE WELCOME -</b> Bobby's talk will be oriented to new beekeepers and will include some important tips and tricks.</p> <p><b>Bobby Colson</b> is a member of CEBA at Oatland Island and teaches a class each year. He assisted in founding the Ogeechee Area Beekeepers and served as their president. He also assisted with founding the Altamaha Beekeepers and served as president of that club as well until last year. He taught a beekeeping class at Georgia Southern and will teach another this fall.</p>
ABRAHAM BALDWIN	<p><b>OUR OBSERVATIONS OF HEAT TREATMENT FOR VARROA CONTROL -</b> This breakout will cover our experiences with treating varroa using heat and understanding the relationship between temperature and honey bees.</p> <p><b>David Holloman</b> began his beekeeping adventure five years ago. Since then, he has become a certified beekeeper and he is currently studying for the Journeyman exam. He is a member of the Tricounty Club and has assisted Julia Mahood as a volunteer in the prison program for the past three years.</p> <p><b>David Kirsliis</b> is a third year beekeeper in Athens, Georgia, where he manages 12 hives and practices thermal treatment methods for Varroa.</p>	<p><b>MAKING CREAMED HONEY -</b> Making creamed honey doesn't require any tools or equipment that you likely don't already have, and the Dyce method certainly isn't the only way to achieve a smooth, spreadable product your clients will love.</p> <p><b>Bobby Thanepohn</b> is the "Bobbee" half of Bobbee MacBee's and vice president of the Etowah River Beekeepers. Bobbee MacBee's has taken several top honors at GBA honey shows.</p>
LYMAN HALL	<p><b>OBSERVATION HIVES -</b> The opportunity to watch honey bees up close for an extended period of time is both entertaining and educational. Whether you're doing serious research or just having fun, observation hives are a great addition to your beekeeping equipment. Learn how to build, maintain and use several different types of them for fun, teaching and profit.</p> <p><b>Dan Long</b> is a beekeeper living in Athens, Georgia who enjoys the challenges and rewards associated with the pursuit. He maintains dozens of colonies in many different types of hives. He teaches beekeeping to various groups and individuals locally and at the state level.</p>	<p><b>HIGH-QUALITY NUCS -</b> What should you be looking for when you buy a nuc? How do bee-sellers create nucs? In this presentation, we will discuss what makes a high quality nuc and how you can be an informed buyer.</p> <p><b>Jimmy Gatt</b> is a Journeyman beekeeper and Vice President of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. He enjoys public speaking to beekeeping and gardening groups and volunteering to plant high-value nectar plants for pollinators. He works as a software developer and lives in Marietta, GA.</p>
OUTSIDE	<p><b>BEE YARD BASICS: HOW TO DO A HIVE INSPECTION -</b> As new beekeepers, it is always difficult to know exactly what to be looking for during a hive inspection. Bobby will share with you tips he has picked up along the way that will help you have a more successful hive inspection. This class deals with live colonies. You must bring your veil to wear during this class. (NOTE: This program will be offered during the <u>morning sessions</u> – A and C – on both days.)</p> <p><b>Bobby Chaisson</b> is a full time beekeeper working with Georgia Bee Removal. Bobby has had over 13 years experience working with bees all over the southeast. He will share with you tips and tricks he has picked up over the years from many other beekeepers.</p>	<p><b>BEE YARD BASICS: HOW TO FIND &amp; MARK QUEENS -</b> A common problem for new beekeepers is they can never find their queen. Bobby will share with you some tips to make it easier to locate the queen in your colony and he'll show you how to catch and mark her easily. This class deals with live colonies. You must bring your veil to wear during this class. (NOTE: This program will be offered during the <u>afternoon sessions</u> – B and D – on both days.)</p> <p><b>Bobby Chaisson</b> is a full time beekeeper working with Georgia Bee Removal. Bobby has had over 13 years experience working with bees all over the southeast. He will share with you tips and tricks he has picked up over the years from many other beekeepers.</p>