



# 2024 FALL CONFERENCE

&

## *Honey Show*

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21

RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER • LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
GAINESVILLE, GA

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# 2024 FALL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**BOB BINNIE** is a commercial beekeeper and honey packer located in the southern Appalachian Mountains of northeast Georgia and for over thirty years has been doing business under the name of Blue Ridge Honey Company in Lakemont, Georgia. Bob initially became involved with migratory commercial beekeeping in Oregon in 1981 and due to operating as both a pollinator and honey producer has managed bees in nine states. Voted 2003 Beekeeper of The Year in Georgia, Bob has also been President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, the Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Association and the Macon County Beekeepers Association in Franklin, North Carolina.

**KEYNOTE 3: THE CHEMISTRY BEHIND PROCESSING HONEY** – Why honey is an unusual and special product and how its extraordinary properties can be ruined or enhanced during processing.

**KEYNOTE 8: OLD COMB AND TOXIC CHEMISTRY IN OUR COLONIES** – A detailed look at why it's very important to rotate out old comb and how the chemicals that surround us affect our bees. Through research, and beekeeper's experiences, it is shown how toxic synergistic chemical interactions cause major issues in our colonies.



**DR. ROBYN UNDERWOOD** received her BSc in Entomology and Applied Ecology from the University of Delaware and her PhD in Entomology from the University of Manitoba. As Penn State's Extension Educator of Apiculture, she conducts scientific research projects to study beekeeper-applied questions and brings the results of the projects to the beekeepers through extension products with an aim to improve the industry while making beekeeping a more successful venture. Her research program focuses on honey bee health and practical beekeeping considerations.

**KEYNOTE 2: THE EPIQ PROGRAM: A UNIQUE APPROACH TO QUEEN REARING EDUCATION** – This talk will discuss the Education about Production and Insemination of Queens (EPIQ) program, a long-term learning initiative designed to improve queen production and breeding in the northeastern US.

**KEYNOTE 6: COMPARING HONEY BEE COLONY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS** – A detailed look at three management systems and how they affect bees: conventional, organic and chemical-free.



**DR. LEWIS BARTLETT** is a research faculty professor at the University of Georgia with a mandate to work on Pollinator Health. He has been beekeeping for over 11 years since he started his training in Yorkshire, England, where he was born. He specialises in the biology of parasites and infectious diseases and the health of honey bees. Lewis has trained in York, Cambridge, Exeter, and Falmouth in the UK and in San Francisco California, Athens and Atlanta in Georgia while in America. His work started in understanding what drives outbreaks of honey bee diseases and has grown to cover everything from nutrition to pesticides in determining the health of honey bees.

**KEYNOTE 5: BEEKEEPING IN GEORGIA: UPDATES FROM YOUR UGA BEE LAB\*** – The UGA Bee Lab has grown during another busy year! We're continuing to track and eradicate the yellow legged hornet presence in Georgia, moving forward with lethal baits for small hive beetles, working on better Varroa control, as well as looking at bumblebee health and flower sharing between honey bees and bumblebees. In this session we'll update you on what your bee lab has been up to, introduce new faces at the bee lab, explain what funding is coming in, how GBA is helping, and celebrate Georgia as a power-house of honey bee co-operative research in the USA.

\*This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licenses.



**GREG ROGERS** runs Haw Creek Honey Co. in the beautiful mountains of Asheville, North Carolina. He has 42 years of beekeeping experience, 25 years of which have been full time. His 350-400 hive operation has concentrated on honey production and apple pollination. He has done presentations on a wide variety of honey bee management topics at the local, state, and national level.

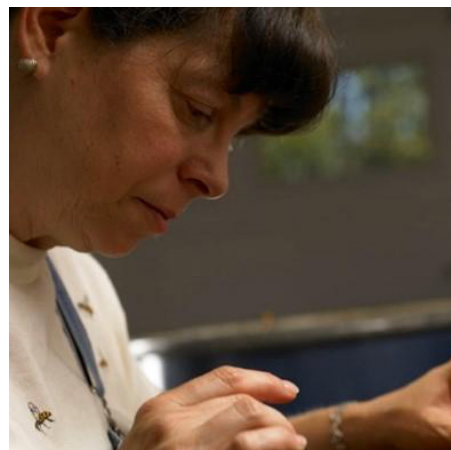
**KEYNOTE 4: OXALIC ACID - GLYCERIN EXTENDED RELEASE TREATMENTS** – A look at the results of my first honey bee research project on Oxalic Acid - Glycerin Extended Release sponges, conducted in 2023 in cooperation with Dr. David Tarpy at N.C. State University.



**DR. DAVID PECK** is the Director of Research and Education at Betterbee in Greenwich NY, where he assists in product development and research, and also teaches classes and develops scientifically-sound educational materials. His doctoral work in Cornell University's Department of Neurobiology and Behavior was supervised by Professor Tom Seeley. His dissertation research focused on the transmission of mites between bee colonies, as well as the mite-resistance traits of the untreated honey bees living in Cornell's Arnot Forest. After earning his degree he has continued to research varroa/bee interactions, including field work in Newfoundland Canada (where varroa still have not arrived) and Anosy Madagascar (where varroa arrived only in 2010 or 2011).

**KEYNOTE 1: COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE IN HONEY BEES** – A fascinating look at honey bee dance language and how workers use their collective intelligence.

**KEYNOTE 7: VARROA MITES** – In order to better combat Varroa, it's important to understand its history, biology and year-round practices for healthy hives.



**VIRGINIA WEBB** is a full-time commercial beekeeper. For more than 50 years, Virginia has championed the role of the honey bee in helping to sustain global agriculture.

**FRIDAY DINNER KEYNOTE #: THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE GEORGIA BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY** – Virginia will offer her unique perspective on where Georgia beekeeping has been and where it's headed.

**DINNER SPONSORED BY:**



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## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

For Certified/Journeyman/Master testing and honey judge training information, [CLICK HERE](#).

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
2:00 - 6:00	Honey Show entries accepted		Lanier
4:30 - 6:00	GBA Board Meeting		Lyman

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:15	Registration opens		
7:15 - 9:00	Honey Show entries accepted		Lanier
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Remarks	Gina Gallucci	Ballroom
9:15 - 10:00	<b>Keynote 1: Collective Intelligence in Honey Bees</b>	Dr. David Peck	Ballroom
10:00 - 10:45	<b>Keynote 2: The EPIQ Program: A Unique Approach To Queen Rearing Education</b>	Dr. Robyn Underwood	Ballroom
10:45 - 11:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS A</b>			
11:00 - 11:45	Beeswax Luminary Bowl Making Workshop – <i>Pre-registration required</i>	Deb DeWitt	Lyman
	☞ Keeping Your Bees With Ease – Tips for Healthier Bees & Happier Beekeepers	Linda Tillman	Walton
	☞ How Bees Make Honey	Emily Heath	Few
	Meet the Buckfast Bee	Roger Kicklighter	Gwinnett
	Small Hive Beetles	Ian Collins	Ballroom
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch		
1:15 - 2:00	<b>Keynote 3: The Chemistry Behind Processing Honey</b>	Bob Binnie	Ballroom
2:15 - 2:30	Break / Visit Vendors		
<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS B</b>			
2:30 - 3:15	Beeswax Luminary Bowl Making Workshop – <i>Pre-registration required</i>	Deb DeWitt	Lyman
	☞ Keeping Your Bees With Ease – Tips for Healthier Bees & Happier Beekeepers	Linda Tillman	Walton
	☞ How Bees Make Honey	Emily Heath	Few
	Meet the Buckfast Bee	Roger Kicklighter	Gwinnett
	Small Hive Beetles	Ian Collins	Ballroom
3:15 - 3:45	Homemade Cookie Break/Visit Vendors		
4:00 - 4:45	<b>Keynote 4: Oxalic Acid - Glycerin Extended Release Treatments</b>	Greg Rogers	Ballroom
5:00 - 5:30	Honey Show open for viewing		
5:30 - 6:00	Beer & Wine Social		Ballroom
6:00 - 8:00	<b>Dinner / Talk: The Past and Future of the Georgia Beekeeping Industry</b> Beekeeper of the Year, Honey Show awards, and new Journeyman and Master beekeepers presented after the speaker. <i>Dinner sponsored by Hives for Heroes.</i>	Virginia Webb	Ballroom

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:30	Registration		
7:30 - 8:30	President's Breakfast (current club presidents only)		Ballroom
8:30 - 8:45	Election / Visit Vendors		
8:45 - 9:45	GBA Business Meeting & Beekeeper of the Year Announcement		Ballroom
9:45 - 10:45	<b>Keynote 5: Beekeeping in Georgia: Updates from your UGA Bee Lab</b> NOTE: This program qualifies for one CEU for HBR licenses.	Dr. Lewis Bartlett	Ballroom
10:45 - 11:15	Break / Visit Vendors		
<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS C</b>			
11:15 - 12:00	How To Make Mead - Part 1 NOTE: You must attend part 1 to attend part 2 in the afternoon.	Chris Smith	Lyman
	Honey Judge Training Session: Photography Judging Basics	Georgia P. Zumwalt	Few
	☞ A Year In The Apiary	Jerry Wallace	Walton
	Regenerative Beekeeping	Kathy Bourn	Gwinnett
	☞ All About Queens	Dr. David Peck	Ballroom
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch		
12:45	Announcement of election results		
1:00 - 1:45	<b>Keynote 6: Comparing Honey Bee Colony Management Systems</b>	Dr. Robyn Underwood	Ballroom
1:45 - 2:30	<b>Keynote 7: Varroa Mites</b>	Dr. David Peck	Ballroom
2:30 - 3:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS D</b>			
3:00-3:45	How To Make Mead - Part 2 NOTE: You must have attended morning session part 1 to participate in part 2.	Chris Smith	Lyman
	How To Organize And Run A Great Beekeeping Short Course	Dan Long	Few
	☞ A Year In The Apiary	Jerry Wallace	Walton
	Regenerative Beekeeping	Kathy Bourn	Gwinnett
	☞ All About Queens	Dr. David Peck	Ballroom
3:45 - 4:00	Honey Ice Cream Break/Visit Vendors		
4:00 - 4:45	<b>Keynote 8: Old Comb And Toxic Chemistry In Our Colonies</b>	Bob Binnie	Ballroom
4:45 - 5:00	Raffle Drawings		Ballroom
5:00	Conference Concludes		



**BEE-GINNER'S TRACK** – These sessions are recommended for those in their first years of beekeeping



## SEPTEMBER 20: BREAKOUT TALKS (SESSIONS A & B)

**BALLROOM** **SMALL HIVE BEETLES** – Small hive beetles are an imported pest that beekeepers in the South struggle with. Ian will cover their history and discuss a variety of ways to control small hive beetles in your colonies including cultural, biological, and chemical control methods.

**IAN COLLINS** is a PhD student in the Honey Bee lab at the University of Georgia under Dr. Lewis Bartlett. He received his bachelor's degree in environmental science from the UGA Department of Entomology in 2021, and then stayed at UGA as a research technician at the honey bee lab. His research focuses on using Chlorantraniliprole as a deterrent for small hive beetles in artificial pollen supplemental feeding and as an attract and kill bait in beetle traps.



**LYMAN** **BEEWAX LUMINARY BOWL MAKING WORKSHOP** – Participants will make a beautiful beeswax luminary bowl from start to finish that they get to take home! *NOTE: This workshop requires pre-registration and payment of a \$20 materials fee.*

**DEB DEWITT** fell in love with bees in 2018. A Master Beekeeper, she keeps bees at her home in downtown Atlanta, as well as in Chattahoochee Hills, Mt Arabia, and Brevard NC, and manages the Tara Beekeepers' teaching apiary in Decatur, where she also teaches a beekeeping class to high school students. Deb is Vice President of Tara Beekeepers, and a MABA board member.



See color-coded map for room locations.

**GWINNETT** **MEET THE BUCKFAST BEE** – A breeding program developed by Brother Adam at Buckfast Abbey in the early 1900s results in bees with many favorable characteristics.

**ROGER KICKLIGHTER** is a Journeyman beekeeper who manages 50 colonies at Tip Top Honey Bees in Sandersville, GA. He is passionate about breeding premium Buckfast-style queens.



**WALTON** 🐝 **BEE-GINNER'S TRACK: KEEPING YOUR BEES WITH EASE: SOME TIPS FOR HEALTHIER BEES AND HAPPIER BEEKEEPERS** – Join Linda to learn some tips and tricks for easier beekeeping and a calmer beekeeping life.

**LINDA TILLMAN** is Master Beekeeper and the past president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association. Linda keeps about 14 hives of bees and has a YouTube channel (@lindatsbees) where she has videos of hive inspections, beekeeping tips, honey recipes and much more. When she is not working with her bees, she is baking bread, quilting or playing with her grandchildren. Linda loves sharing her passion for bees with others.



**FEW** 🐝 **BEE-GINNER'S TRACK: HOW BEES MAKE HONEY** – The chemistry involved in the processes that bees use to convert nectar into honey.

**EMILY HEATH** is a retired chemistry teacher, a Georgia certified beekeeper, and a UGA Master Gardener. She is the treasurer of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers, a GBA director, and enjoys presenting educational talks about bees.



## SEPTEMBER 21: BREAKOUT TALKS (SESSIONS C & D)

**WALTON** 🐝 **BEE-GINNER'S TRACK: THE YEAR IN THE APIARY** – Beekeeping is a year round practice! Learn what tasks should be done when and what beekeepers should expect as the seasons pass.

**JERRY WALLACE** is Past President and honorary Lifetime Member of Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. Beekeeping has been in his family for more than 130 years, and Jerry has been keeping bees in Atlanta since 2001. He currently manages four colonies.



**FEW – SESSION C** **HONEY JUDGE TRAINING SESSION: PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING BASICS** – This breakout is for honey judges to hone their photography category judging skills

**GEORGIA P. ZUMWALT** is a Journeyman Beekeeper and the proud keeper to 25 honey bee colonies on her micro farm operation in north GA which is affectionately named "Baci d'Fiori Honey Company" (that's Italian for "Kisses of Flowers"). In addition to her beekeeping, she holds the prestigious PPA Master of Photography degree, is a PPA Certified Professional Photographer and is a photographic educator at Piedmont University in Demorest GA.



**FEW – SESSION D** **CLASS ACT! HOW TO ORGANIZE AND RUN A GREAT BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE** – Building a short course for your club can seem like a daunting task. Whether you want it to attract new members, raise funds, perform community outreach or all three, come learn the details and options to make it successful and fun.



**DAN LONG** is a Georgia Master Beekeeper, is currently the President of Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association, and was the 2022 Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. Dan currently manages around 50 colonies for honey production and nucleus sales.

**BALLROOM** 🐝 **BEE-GINNER'S TRACK: ALL ABOUT QUEENS** – Queens are the lifeblood of the colony, it all starts and stops with the matriarch. Learn all about how queens function and how to manage the queens in your beekeeping practice.

**DR. DAVID PECK** is the Director of Research and Education at Betterbee in Greenwich NY, where he assists in product development and research, and also teaches classes and develops scientifically-sound educational materials.



**WALTON** **REGENERATIVE BEEKEEPING, OR HOW TO GET A FIST FIGHT STARTED AT A BEE MEETING** – There are as many ways to keep bees as there are beekeepers. This is looking at one way to keep bees without using miticides.

**KATHLEEN BOURN** manages 10-20 colonies in Hart County in an assortment of hive styles that she builds. Kathy is president of the Lake Hartwell Beekeepers, Co-editor of the GBA newsletter, and the 2021 GBA Beekeeper of the Year.



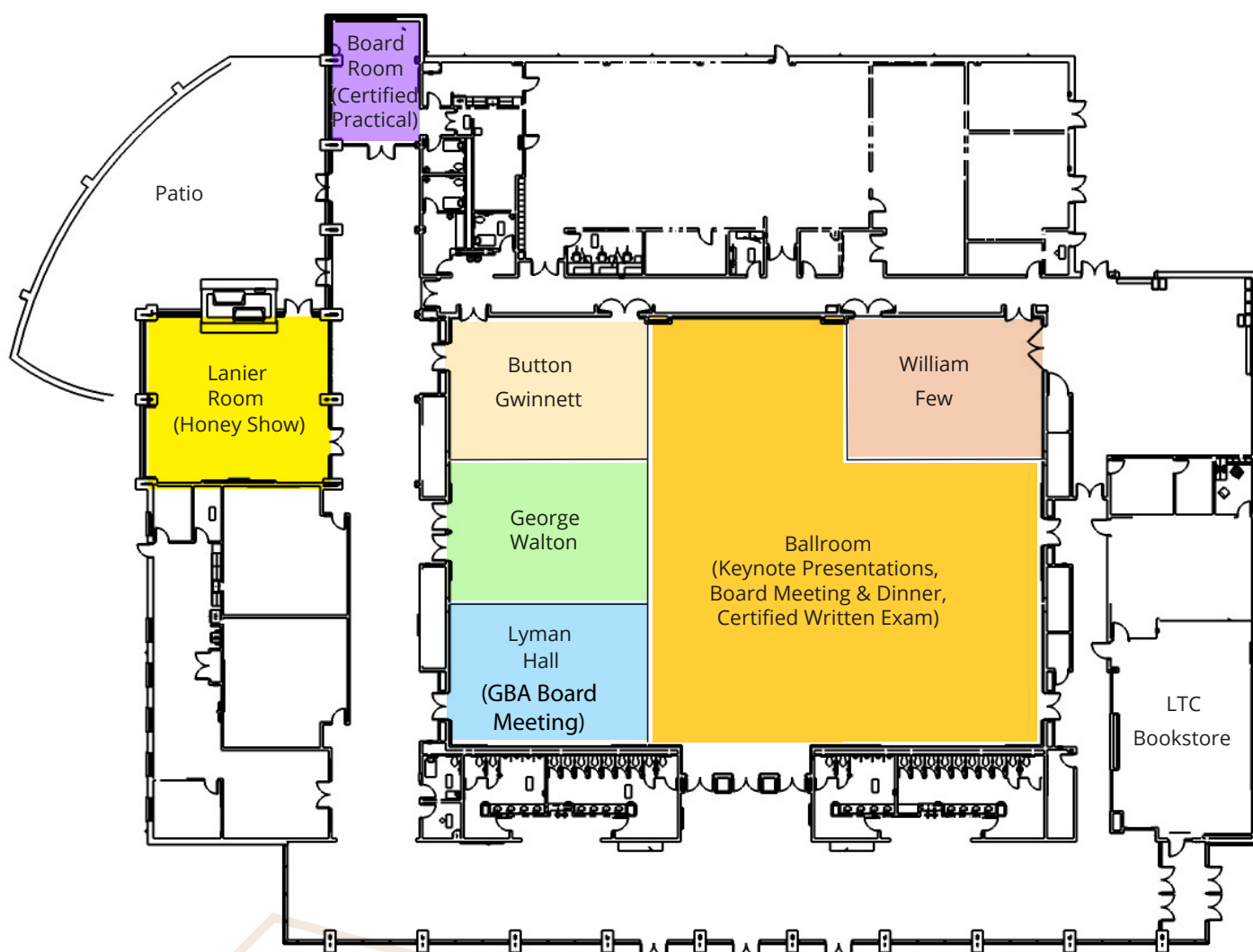
**LYMAN-SESSION C** **HOW TO MAKE MEAD - PART 1** – Learn the basics of making high-quality mead during these two breakout sessions (C and D).

**CHRIS SMITH** is a certified beekeeper who manages six colonies in Mt. Airy, Georgia. He is currently the president of the Tri-County bee club, and makes a mean bottle of mead!



**LYMAN-SESSION D** **HOW TO MAKE MEAD - PART 2** – We continue our look at making high-quality mead begun in Part 1. **NOTE** that you cannot attend Part 2 (session D) without having attended session C.

# RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER



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