

# 2025 FALL CONFERENCE & HONEY SHOW

• SEPTEMBER 12 & 13 •

+

UGA CERTIFICATION TESTING  
& HONEY JUDGE TRAINING  
SEPTEMBER 11



LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER  
CAVESVILLE, GA

GBA  
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AD AUCTION:  
FRIDAY 9/12,  
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# 2025 FALL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**KRISPN GIVEN** is the Senior Apiculture Specialist in the Department of Entomology at Purdue University. He started keeping bees at the age of nine working with his father who introduced him to the world of honey bees, later he purchased his first automobile selling comb honey. Today he is recognized as one of the leading international authorities in the fields of instrumental insemination and honey bee breeding. He was instrumental in the pioneering work developing the "Indiana Mite-biter" honey bee strain.

**KEYNOTE #1: MATING ON THE WING** – Enter the fascinating world of reproductive biology in honey bees. Learn about the complex processes of queen and drone reproduction, shedding light on DCAs to spermatogenesis and how these roles sustain colonies.



**DR. JÖRG MAYER** grew up in Germany where he received his primary education. After receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Budapest/Hungary, he studied in the US, Papua New Guinea, and the Royal Veterinary College in London. Dr. Mayer is currently a full professor in zoological medicine at UGA. He lectures regularly at large national and international conferences on all aspects of exotic animal medicine including honey bee medicine. He has published numerous scientific articles and books and is recognized as an outstanding speaker.

**KEYNOTE #5: INVESTIGATING THE BACTERIAL LOAD IN HIVES WITH SUSPECTED EFB** – Dr. Mayer will report on a study that was funded by a Bee Plate grant, where he learned what kind of bacteria was really found when EFB was suspected and how the bacterial composition can change over time.

**KEYNOTE #6: THE HONEYBEE MICROBIOTA** – Learn about the importance of having honey bees with a well-balanced gut microbiota and the harms that can be done with too much antibiotic treatment.



**DR. JENNIFER TSURUDA** is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she focuses her time on honey bee health, pollination and as the state's extension service apiculturist. Prior to her current position, she was the apiculturist for Clemson University. Her research includes honey bee foraging behavior, behavioral resistance to mites, genomic imprinting and pesticide exposure.

**KEYNOTE #2: MONITORING FOR MURDEROUS MITES (VARROA)** – Learn the differences between monitoring methods for Varroa. Jennifer will present new research findings on powdered sugar shakes as a monitoring tool.

**KEYNOTE #8: INSPECTION WITH INTENTION** – How to increase the likelihood of colony survival by doing inspections that focus on the changing needs of colonies as the season progresses.

**FRIDAY DINNER TALK: BEE OBSESSED!** **FRIDAY DINNER SPONSORED BY:**



**DR. GEOFF WILLIAMS** is an associate professor at Auburn University, where he directs the bee lab. Geoff received his undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta (Canada), and then studied Nosema ceranae biology and management for his Ph.D. at Dalhousie University (Canada). He then jumped across the Atlantic to work on honey bee pesticide-parasite interactions and tropilaelaps mites at the University of Bern (Switzerland) and Chiang Mai University (Thailand) for six years as a research scientist. Geoff joined Auburn in late 2016; he is currently Vice President of the global honey bee association COLOSS and an apiculture subject editor for the Journal of Economic Entomology.

**KEYNOTE #3: TROPILAELAPS: A TEENY-TINY MITE ON THE HORIZON** – Akin to Varroa destructor, *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* is parasitic mite of honey bees in Asia. Recent detections of *tropilaelaps* in eastern Europe has shone a very big spotlight on this mite. But, should beekeepers in western Europe and the Americas fear it? During this talk, Dr. Williams will introduce *tropilaelaps* biology and management, and then focus on his team's collaborative efforts to fill key gaps in its biology and to educate front-line apiary inspectors about this mite across the country.



**DR. JON ZAWISLAK** is an assistant professor of apiculture and urban entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He has worked and played with honey bees since 1998, and is equally at home in the bee yard, the laboratory or the classroom. Jon has a background in botany and entomology, and was certified as an EAS Master Beekeeper in 2009. He and his family own Walnut Valley Honey Farm in Fayetteville, Arkansas, producing good products from the hive and ensuring their neighborhood has plenty of pollinators.

**KEYNOTE #7: COMMON SCENTS: HONEY BEE PHEROMONE COMMUNICATION** – Honey bees have fascinating methods of communication, including a complex language of chemical signals known as pheromones. Learn about how these signals are used in the colony.

**KEYNOTE #4: MYSTERIES AND MANAGEMENT OF LAYING WORKERS** – Sometimes the order of a bee colony breaks down. Learn what happens when workers begin laying eggs and what you can do to correct this issue.

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12: BREAKOUT SESSIONS A & B

☞ Recommended for novice beekeepers.

**MASTERING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF QUEEN REARING** – Explore the intricate balance between traditional techniques and scientific advancements in queen rearing.

**KRISPN GIVEN** is the Senior Apiculture Specialist in the Department of Entomology at Purdue University. He started keeping bees at the age of nine working with his father who introduced him to the world of honey bees, later he purchased his first automobile selling comb honey. Today he is recognized as one of the leading international authorities in the fields of instrumental insemination and honey bee breeding. He was instrumental in the pioneering work developing the "Indiana Mite-biter" honey bee strain.



**DEMONSTRATION: AMITRAZ RESISTANCE TESTING** – Varroa resistance to Amitraz can be both expensive for you and deadly to your bees. Learn how you can test the Varroa in your colonies as part of doing your pre-treatment alcohol wash to measure resistance and prevent spending money on expensive Apivar or Amiflex that might not work, as well doing your part in slowing down the spread of this problem.

**DR. LEWIS BARTLETT** is an Assistant Professor of Honey Bee Health at the University of Georgia, and current head of the UGA Bee Lab. Lewis has been keeping bees for over 13 years, first learning in his home of Yorkshire (England) before moving his scientific career around the UK, to California, and finally here to Georgia.



**HANDS-ON BEESWAX ORNAMENTS WORKSHOP** – In this workshop you will learn by making your own beautiful beeswax ornaments to take home! NOTE: Advanced registration is required, with an additional supply fee.

**VIRGINIA WEBB** is a master beekeeper and commercial beekeeper from Clarkesville, GA. For more than 50 years she has championed the role of the honey bee in helping to sustain global agriculture.



**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF VARROA** (☞ Session A only)

– Learn strategic approaches to monitoring and controlling the honey bee's most pervasive pest, Varroa destructor with an emphasis on methods that minimize the necessity for harsh chemical treatments, ultimately prioritizing the long-term health and vitality of the bees.

**CANDICE ROEBUCK-BAILEM** is a registered nurse and certified beekeeper who manages about 20 colonies. She is the secretary of the Lake Country Beekeepers Association.



**ENHANCING YOUR HIVE INSPECTIONS** (☞ Session B only) – Learn how to determine when to open your hive based on external observations. Explore how to approach your inspections with respect for the bees while gaining the most knowledge from your observations.

**LINDA TILLMAN** is a master beekeeper, a grandmother and a retired psychologist. She has kept bees for 20 years. She regularly uploads videos to her YouTube channel (@lindatsbees), where you can find playlists on beekeeping tips, hive inspections, harvesting honey, and cooking with honey.



**WORKER BEE POLYETHISM** – Worker bees perform many jobs in the hive. They tend to follow a general age-related pattern of tasks as they mature, but bees can also respond to sudden changes in the colony structure or environmental conditions, which alter the jobs they will do.

**DR. JON ZAWISLAK** is an assistant professor of apiculture and urban entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He has worked and played with honey bees since 1998, and is equally at home in the bee yard, the laboratory or the classroom. Jon has a background in botany and entomology, and was certified as an EAS Master Beekeeper in 2009.



# SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13: BREAKOUT SESSIONS C & D

☞ Recommended for novice beekeepers.

**HONEY EXTRACTION METHODS** – An interesting look at how different Georgia beekeepers set up their extraction processes, from operations small to large.

**DAVID HOLLOWOM** is a Master beekeeper from Commerce GA where he manages around 20 colonies. David is a board member of the Tri-County club and volunteers for Hives for Heroes and the GBA prison program.



**KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR HIVES** – Keeping good records of your hive inspections can be a key factor in your success as a beekeeper. Hear about a variety of methods that other beekeepers use that may enhance your beekeeping practice.

**DAWN KEMPH** started keeping bees in 2020 as a COVID hobby and it has quickly taken over most of her spare time. She specializes in educating new beekeepers.



**BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT (☞ Session C only)** – An overview of equipment options and ways to use them to enhance your beekeeping practice.

**ANGELA WILBANKS** has been keeping bees for over five years. The owner of Sunnie's Bees, she's a sideliner and bee removal specialist who participates in festivals and volunteer educational programs.



**FALL CONSIDERATIONS (☞ Session D only)** – Learn what you should be doing in the fall to increase your chances of winter survival for your bees.



**MARCUS POLLARD** is a Master Beekeeper and owner of Bee Pimpn. He specializes in honey, bee removal, training, and professional hive management.

**THE INS AND OUTS OF HAVING A BEE REMOVAL BUSINESS** – Learn what it takes to become a licensed professional bee removal specialist, from the legal requirements to the day to day management of this demanding but rewarding profession.

**JOHN HORNE** is the owner/operator of Hornestead Honeybees in Moultrie, GA and has had a passion for bees for over 13 years. He is a Certified Beekeeper and a Licensed Honeybee Removal Operator serving South Georgia.



**HONEY JUDGE TRAINING SESSION: HOW TO JUDGE THE GADGET CATEGORY (Session C only)** – This session is for honey judges to learn more about judging the gadget category in honey shows.

**DAN LONG** is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and GBA's 2022 Georgia Beekeeper of the Year. In Athens, he currently manages around 50 colonies for honey production and nucleus sales. In 2023 he founded a business designing and 3D printing equipment for raising queens called EZPZ



**HOSTING A UGA CERTIFIED BEEKEEPER TESTING EVENT** – Learn the particulars of how your local club can host a UGA Certified Beekeeper testing event in your area.

**DR. JENNIFER BERRY** has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Bee Program for more than 25 years. She has spent decades researching ways to control Varroa destructor and ways to keep bees healthy and alive. Her latest research has involved what best to plant in non traditional and traditional landscapes to enhance pollinator populations and diversity.



# SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13: BREAKOUT SESSIONS E

**UGA MASTER BEEKEEPING PROGRAM (Session E only)** – If you've ever been interested in exploring the Master Beekeeper program, come learn all about the different levels, tests and requirements.



**DR. JENNIFER BERRY** has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Bee Program for more than 25 years. She has spent decades researching ways to control Varroa destructor and ways to keep bees healthy and alive. Her latest research has involved what best to plant in non traditional and traditional landscapes to enhance pollinator populations and diversity.

**PREPARE YOUR HIVE PRODUCTS FOR HONEY SHOWS (Session E only)** – Learn tips and tricks to better prepare your entries for honey shows from a seasoned honey judge.



**NANCY SIMPSON** is a retired psychology professor and a practicing clinical psychologist. She is also a certified Honey Judge with the American Honey Show Training Council (AHSTC). She started beekeeping in 2013.

**"SAY BEES!": PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR BEES (Session E only)** – Use your smartphone to enhance your beekeeping and communication. Knowing your subject, lighting, and patience all contribute to acquiring photos you want to keep and use for record keeping and management.



**DR. JENNIFER TSURUDA** is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she focuses her time on honey bee health, pollination and as the state's extension service apiculturist. Prior to her current position, she was the apiculturist for Clemson University. Her research includes honey bee foraging behavior, behavioral resistance to mites, genomic imprinting and pesticide exposure.

**CURRENT RESEARCH AT THE UGA BEE LAB (Session E only)** – Led by Dr. Lewis Bartlett, current head of the UGA bee lab, this breakout session will showcase four short talks from him and his students updating the lab's current research on the yellow legged hornet, small hive beetles, new Varroa treatments, and honey bee feed supplements.



# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

See website for Certified/Journeyman/Master testing and honey judge training schedules.

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
2:00 - 6:00	Honey Show Entries Accepted		Lanier

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 (Registration opens at 7:15 am)

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:15 - 9:00	Honey Show entries accepted		Lanier
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Remarks	Julia Mahood	Ballroom
9:15 - 10:00	<b>Keynote 1: Mating on the Wing</b>	Krispn Given	Ballroom
10:00 - 10:45	<b>Keynote 2: Monitoring for Murderous Mites (Varroa)</b>	Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda	Ballroom
10:45 - 11:15	Break / Visit Vendors		
11:15 - 12:00	<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS A</b>		
	Mastering the Art and Science of Queen Rearing	Krispn Given	Ballroom
	Demonstration: Amitraz Resistance Testing	Dr. Lewis Bartlett	Walton
	Hands-on Beeswax Ornaments Workshop – Pre-registration required	Virginia Webb	Lyman
	Integrated Pest Management Of Varroa (☞, Session A only)	Candice Roebuck-Bailem	Oglethorpe
	Worker Bee Polyethism	Dr. Jon Zawislak	Gwinnett
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch / Election Voting / Visit Vendors		Ballroom
1:00 - 2:00	<b>Keynote 3: Tropilaelaps: A Teeny-Tiny Mite On The Horizon</b> NOTE: This program qualifies for one CEU for bee removal professionals.	Dr. Geoff Williams	Ballroom
2:00 - 2:15	GBA Website Ad Auction		Ballroom
2:15 - 2:30	Break / Visit Vendors		
2:30 - 3:15	<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS B</b>		
	Mastering the Art and Science of Queen Rearing	Krispn Given	Ballroom
	Demonstration: Amitraz Resistance Testing	Dr. Lewis Bartlett	Walton
	Hands-on Beeswax Ornaments Workshop – Pre-registration required	Virginia Webb	Lyman
	Enhancing Your Hive Inspections (☞, Session B only)	Linda Tillman	Oglethorpe
	Worker Bee Polyethism	Dr. Jon Zawislak	Gwinnett
3:15 - 3:45	Homemade Cookie Break / Visit Vendors		Ballroom
3:45 - 4:30	<b>Keynote 4: Mysteries And Management Of Laying Workers</b>	Dr. Jon Zawislak	Ballroom
4:30 - 5:00	Honey/Artisan Show Awards Announced	Brutz English	Ballroom
5:00 - 6:00	Beer & Wine Social (Ballroom) / Honey show open for viewing (Lanier Room)		
	<b>Dinner / Talk: Bee Obsessed</b> GBA's Beekeeper of the Year, and new Certified, Journeyman and Master beekeepers presented after the speaker. Dinner sponsored by Hives for Heroes.	Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda	Ballroom

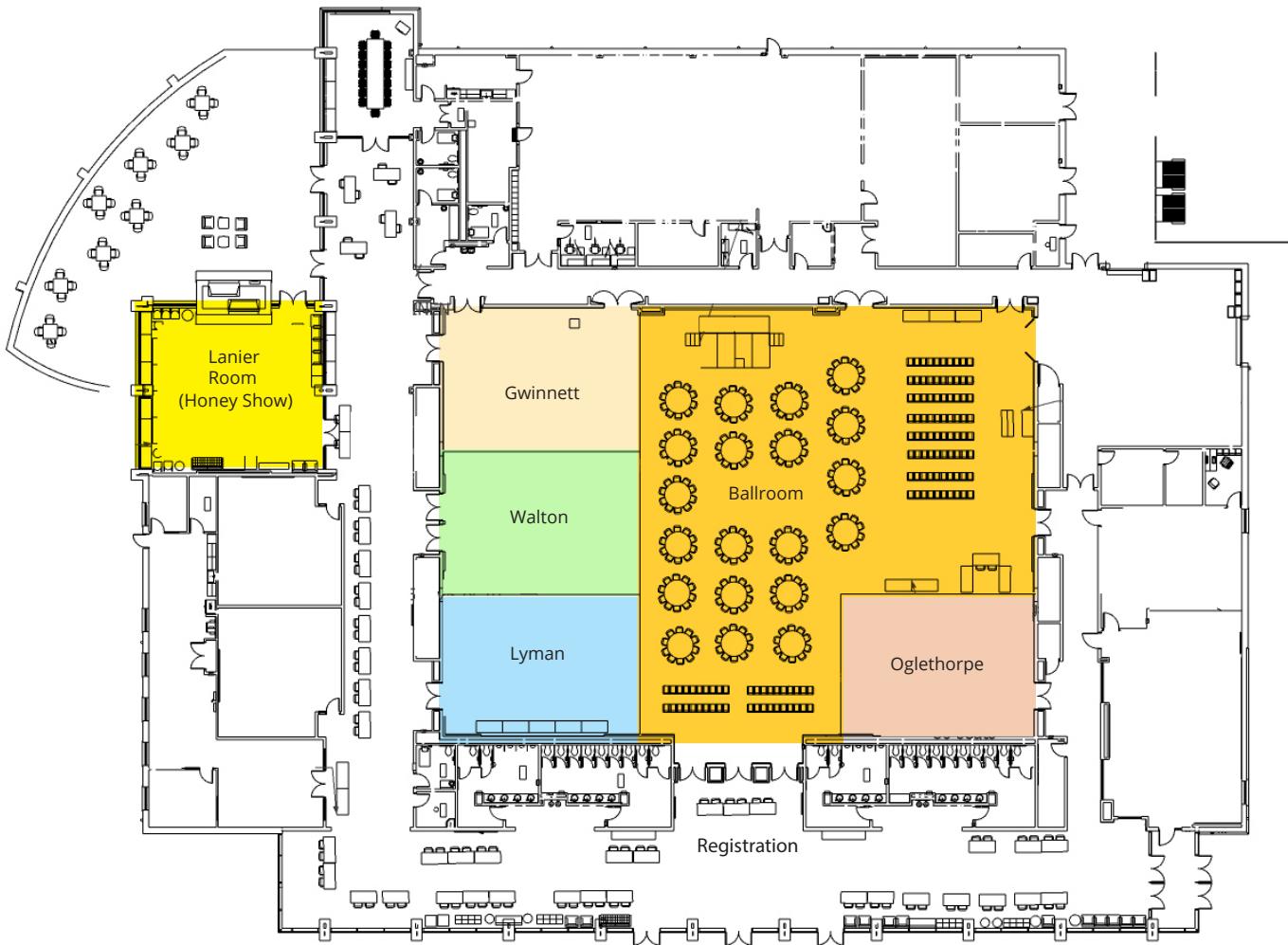
# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 (Registration opens at 7:15 am)

TIME	PRESENTATION / EVENT	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:15 - 11:30	Election Voting		
7:30 - 8:15	President's Breakfast (current club presidents only)		Ballroom
8:00 - 8:30	Election / Visit Vendors		
8:30 - 9:15	GBA Business Meeting & Beekeeper of the Year Announcement		Ballroom
9:15 - 10:00	<b>Keynote 5: Investigating The Bacterial Load In Hives With Suspected EFB</b>	Dr. Jörg Mayer	Ballroom
10:00 - 10:30	Break / Visit Vendors		
10:30 - 11:15	<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS C</b>		
	Honey Harvesting Methods	David Hollomon	Ballroom
	Keeping Track Of Your Hives	Dawn Kemph	Oglethorpe
	Beekeeping Equipment (☞, Session C only)	Angela Wilbanks	Lyman
	Ins and Outs of the Bee Removal Business	John Horne	Walton
	Honey Judge Training Session (Session C only)	Dan Long	Gwinnett
11:15 - 12:00	Lunch / Visit Vendors		Ballroom
12:00 - 12:45	<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS D</b>		
	Honey Harvesting Methods	David Hollomon	Ballroom
	Keeping Track Of Your Hives	Dawn Kemph	Oglethorpe
	Fall Considerations (☞, Session D only)	Marcus Pollard	Lyman
	Ins and Outs of the Bee Removal Business	John Horne	Walton
	Hosting A UGA Certified Beekeeper Testing Event (Session D only)	Dr. Jennifer Berry	Gwinnett
12:45 - 1:15	Break / Visit Vendors		
1:15 - 2:00	<b>Keynote 6: The Honey Bee Microbiota</b>	Jörg Mayer	Ballroom
2:00 - 2:45	<b>Keynote 7: Common Scents: Honey Bee Pheromone Communication</b>	Dr. Jon Zawislak	Ballroom
2:45 - 3:00	Break / Visit Vendors		
3:00 - 3:45	<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS E</b>		
	"Say Bees!" (Photographing Your Bees)	Jennifer Tsuruda	Ballroom
	Prepare Your Hive Products For Honey Shows	Nancy Simpson	Lyman
	UGA Master Beekeeping Program	Dr. Jennifer Berry	Walton
	Current Research at the Bee Lab	UGA Bee Lab Students	Gwinnett
3:45 - 4:00	Honey Ice Cream Break/Visit Vendors		
4:00 - 4:45	<b>Keynote 8: Inspection with Intenton</b>	Jennifer Tsuruda	Ballroom
4:45 - 5:00	Raffle Drawings / Vendor Contest Drawing		Ballroom
5:00	Conference Concludes		

☞ Recommended for novice beekeepers.

See color-coded map on back page for room locations.

# RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER



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