



EDUCATING BEEKEEPERS *and*  
SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS

FALL  
MEETING  
2017

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**OCTOBER 6 *and* 7**  
**GRIFFIN, GEORGIA**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:30-8:15 President’s Breakfast

A meeting of all attending local club presidents.

9:00 Opening Remarks, Linda Tillman, GBA President

9:15-10:00 Randy Oliver: A new era in varroa management

Varroa continually develops resistance to the synthetic miticides, forcing beekeepers to change their ways. Randy will cover the biology and population dynamics of varroa, viruses, and bees, and what is necessary to manage the seasonal buildup of the mite. A rundown on management techniques and the pros and cons of our available treatment options. Includes a discussion of some problems inherent with hobby “treatment-free” beekeeping.

10:00-10:45 Tammy Horn: Reforestation in Appalachia with pollinator habitat

Green Forests Work just planted the two millionth tree on a reclaimed surface mine site in Eastern KY. Working with Coal Country Beeworks and other nonprofits such as Appalachian Headwaters, Green Forests Works is providing a new habitat for pollinators in a region that needs economic development. Forest-based beekeeping is alive and well in the 21st century, and in her opinion, the future of beekeeping depends on forests, not forage.

10:45-11:15 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to breakouts

11:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions A

12:00- 12:45 Lunch

12:45 Honey Show awards announced

1:00-1:45 Kerry Owen: Beekeeping agri-tourism

Turn your business into an event.

1:45-2:00 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to breakouts

2:00- 2:45 Breakout Sessions B

2:45-3:15 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey Auditorium

3:15-4:00 Jennifer Berry: Oxalic acid for varroa control – east coast trials

4:00-4:45 Randy Oliver: Oxalic acid tips

As varroa develops resistance to the synthetic miticides, beekeepers must learn to use alternative treatments. Oxalic acid has a long history of successful use, and can be applied by different methods (dribble, sublimation, extended-release). Tips from someone who has used oxalic acid for nearly two decades.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:30-8:30 Dessert reception • Auction • Beekeeper of the Year Award

Located in the Pavillion

8:00-10:00 Honey Show entries accepted in Room 111 of the Student Learning Center

10:00-12:00 Honey Show Judging

12:45 Honey Show awards announced in Stuckey Auditorium

1:00- 4:45 Honey Show open for viewing, SLC room 111

6:30-8:30 Honey Show open for viewing, SLC room 111

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00-10:00 GBA Business meeting

10:15-10:45 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to breakouts

10:45-11:30 Breakout Sessions C

11:30-12:00 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to lunch

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Raffle drawings and officer election results

1:00-1:45 Keith Delaplane, PhD: Bees in nature and what they can teach us

1:45-2:30 Randy Oliver: Reading the combs: Understanding bee biology over the course of a season

A summary of the series *Understanding Colony Buildup and Decline*. By acquiring a better understanding of the biology of bees, nutrition, parasites, and pathogens over the course of the season, and by learning to “read the combs,” the beekeeper can then make better informed management decisions adapted to his/her particular situation.

2:30- 3:00 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to breakouts

3:00-3:45 Breakout Sessions D

3:45-4:00 BREAK • Visit vendors and walk to Stuckey Auditorium

4:00-4:45 Randy Oliver: The times they are a changin’

Bees are continually being forced to evolve due to environmental changes and introduced parasites. In turn, beekeeping, and the business of beekeeping must also evolve. An overview that puts the recent evolution of beekeeping and agriculture into perspective--how parasites, climate change, changing agricultural practices, beekeeping practices, world trade, pesticides, and GMOs fit into the picture of today’s state of the honey bee.

8:00-11:30 Honey Show open for viewing, SLC room 111

11:30-12:45 Pick up honey show entries

Please help our honey show volunteers by promptly picking up your entries during the allotted time





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Randy Oliver owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs, and honey. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biological sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order not only to broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website: [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com).

Since 2000, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her extension duties include teaching beekeeping to people from all walks of life, including those in Central and South America, and to those imprisoned in Georgia's maximum security prisons. Jennifer is a frequent columnist for *Bee Culture* magazine and a few across the pond. On weekends and nights, she operates Honey Pond Farm, a honey bee venture that sells quality nucleus colonies and where she teaches how to raise superior queens.



Dr. Keith Delaplane is Professor of Entomology, Walter B. Hill Fellow, and Director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Throughout his 27 years at UGA, he has conducted numerous research projects, written countless articles, supervised a number of graduate students and been author and editor of several books. Dr. Delaplane is also a much sought after speaker on an array of honey bee topics.

Tammy Horn Potter started Coal Country Beeworks in 2008, working with surface mine companies to get more habitat in eastern KY. In 2014, Tammy became the Kentucky state apiarist. In this role, she has worked with Green Forests Work to receive a NRCS

conservation grant (reforestation with nectar/pollen producing trees), a USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey grant, and helped initiate a queen production association in KY. She was the 2014 President of EAS and author of *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation* and *Beeconomy: What Women and Bees teach us about Local Trade and Global Markets* (both published by University Press of Kentucky).



Kerry Owen was voted the 2016 South Carolina Farmer Of The Year. He has extensive knowledge of beekeeping businesses as he is the founder of: Bee Well Honey Farm & Supply, Bee Well Honey & Natural Market, Bee Well Honey Bee Supply, Bee Well Honey Bottling & Distribution, Bee Well Land Improvements LLC, and Bee Well Beauty Products. Kerry is very active in beekeeping organizations and is currently the President-elect of the SCBA.



# Breakout Speakers



Bill Dunn became a beekeeper in the "Golden Age" of bees (before mites). It wasn't until the mite invasion and the subsequent loss of all but one colony that he decided that genetics, not chemicals, was the future answer to bee problems. Bill is still searching for those "perfect" queen mothers.



Steve Esau started keeping bees in 2011 with two hives and a "Little Bee Project" was started. That "Project" is now ~100 production hives and nucs which are managed in the Metro Atlanta area. Steve has a degree in animal sciences from Kansas State University and obtained his GA Master Beekeeper's certificate in 2017. Steve is a member of GBA and is active in his local bee club where he mentors new beekeepers and serves on the board of directors.



Brutz English is a Georgia Master Beekeeper and Senior Welsh honey judge. He is the owner of the Liberty Hill Honey Company, and he has held a Georgia Department of Agriculture honey house license since 2013. He is a graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law (2000).



Keith Fielder is a Master Beekeeper and Welsh Honey Judge. He has around 30 colonies which provide extracted, chunk and comb honey. Employed by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension as the County Extension Coordinator for Putnam County, he is active in many beekeeping organizations.



Gina Gallucci has been learning about bees for twelve years. She served as president of MABA, worked on the MABA Short Course, chairs the swarm calls and answers questions on the MABA phone. She served as GBA newsletter editor and is currently GBA vice president. When not working bees, she enjoys sharing GBA business with friends, travel, reading, painting, and is a long-time yoga practitioner. She pays for her bee hobby by working as a self-employed construction recruiter.



Kevin Lamons grew up in East Tennessee where he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a M.S. degree in agricultural economics. He has worked with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service for 20 years. Kevin coordinates survey activities, analyzes data, and sets estimates related to bees and honey for the southern region which covers AL, FL, GA, and SC. He also travels to Washington, D.C. each spring to work on the national publication.



Marguerite Matherne is a PhD student in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech. She began studying honey bees as an undergraduate student and has continued her research into grad school. She is interested in studying how honey bees manipulate pollen during the pollination process. She also studies how mammals use their tails to deter biting insects from landing. Her honey bee research has been featured in *Business Insider* and *Discovery Channel Canada*.



Rick Moore credits honey bees for bringing him many good things in addition to honey: a wife and a job to name but two. As president of Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Assn, he was introduced to the idea of beekeeping behind prison walls. After working as a volunteer at Dooly State Prison for over a year helping to setup the beekeeping program there, Rick became a GED Instructor at the prison. Now in addition to managing 40 hives with his wife, he acts as a mentor and liaison for the beekeeping program at Dooly.



Tom Rearick is a UGA Master Beekeeper, the founder of the BeeHacker.com blog, and webmaster of the Metro Atlanta Beekeeping Association. Tom lives in Roswell, Georgia. His background in biomedical engineering and computer science makes for a unique perspective on honey bees.



Rena Sartain is a Master Gardner and a certified Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA) member. She is employed with Pike Family Nurseries and has hosted the Master Gardner Internet radio show. She is a contributing writer to "Around The Park" magazine. She is also an artist and a life long Atlantan.



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## FRIDAY

### SESSION A • Friday, 11:15-12:00

**Honey Bee Health Coalition • Tammy Horn**

*Location: Stuckey Auditorium*

Within four short years, the HBHC has provided a coalition of public and private sector agricultural stakeholders working to build consensus on policies aimed at leadership for honey bee health, including tools for monitoring varroa mites, guidance on forage and nutrition, and discussion on policy issues. Tammy is the Eastern Apiculture Society representative to the Coalition, and is happy to hear how best the HBHC can interface with EAS to provide more representation.

**Dining out with Mother Nature - A menu for bees • Rena Sartain**

*Location: SLC Room 104*

A year round diet to attract honeybees in various areas of our state. From soup to nuts, annuals to perennials, shrubs and trees we will discuss what keeps our bee population content and healthy. Bring your ideas and experience to share.

**What happens when bees brush their hair? • Marguerite Matherne**

*Location: SLC Room 115*

Did you know honey bees are covered in millions of hairs? Find out how bees use these hairs in the grooming process to remove the millions of pollen particles that accumulate during pollination.

**USDA-NASS bee & honey annual estimation program and the census of agriculture • Kevin Lamons**

*Location: Flint Building Room 305*

he USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. producers are only a few examples. NASS is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

**Honey bee biology 101 • Steve Esau**

*Location: SLC Room 105*

A look at the basic anatomy of the worker bee and how it affects some of the decisions we make as beekeepers.

**How to gain financial resources for your Bee Club • Gina Gallucci**

*Location: SLC Room 116*

The challenge for all bee clubs is to fund meetings including renting space and paying for your speakers. Learn what has worked for other clubs and what you can apply to your fund raising. We will discuss various ways to bring in cash, build excitement, and develop more participation for your members.

### SESSION B • Friday, 2:00-2:45

**Honey Bee Health Coalition • Tammy Horn**

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**Honey Judges Council • Brutz English**

*Location: Flint Building Room 319*

All judges, stewards, and show secretaries are encouraged to attend this session where we will review the rules of the honey shows and share information and insights about these important jobs.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## SATURDAY

### SESSION C • Saturday, 10:45-11:30

**Problems with queen bees • Bill Dunn**

*Location: SLC Room 104*

While a complete course on queen problems could easily take days we only have a few minutes. This class concerns the most frequently asked questions new beekeepers have about the loss of their queen and suggests easy ways for them to fix the problem.

**Fundamentals of organizing your beekeeping business • Brutz English**

*Location: Flint Building Room 305*

Why is setting up a business entity can be important; what you need to know before you get started; and where to go to get it done.

**Expanding your product line • Kerry Owen**

*Location: Stuckey Auditorium*

Learn about a variety of honey related products to consider.

**Women and bees • Tammy Horn**

*Location: SLC Room 115*

This is not a “Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus” presentation as much as it is a conversation about the contributions women are making to the apiculture and building consensus for future actions. Throughout centuries, women have turned to apiculture as one of the safest spheres to exert leadership and provide an economic safety net for their loved ones. In the 21st century, women must address the age-old challenges to modify equipment, provide leadership in research, and shape civic policies to include pollinators.

**Creamed honey • Keith Fielder**

*Location: SLC Room 105*

Learn the ins-and-outs of making this wonderful product for shows and as a product to add to your line.

**Beekeeping behind the prison wall • Rick Moore**

*Location: SLC Room 116*

Inmates are given a chance to learn the art and science of beekeeping while in prison due to a unique opportunity between the Georgia Department of Corrections and University of Georgia Bee Lab. Beekeeping can be very difficult behind the walls of prison, but the dedicated men and women teaching the inmates, and the desire and drive of the inmates to become Certified Beekeepers are making this program a success.

**How to keep your neighbors from killing your bees • Tom Rearick**

*Location: Flint Building Room 319*

Bee kills from pesticide treatments are not new. What is new is a rational fear of the Zika virus and the rapid growth in commercial mosquito abatement franchises that feed on that fear. Learn how you can help your neighbors fight Zika without also killing your bees and other beneficial insects and aquatic life.

### SESSION D • Saturday, 3:00-3:45

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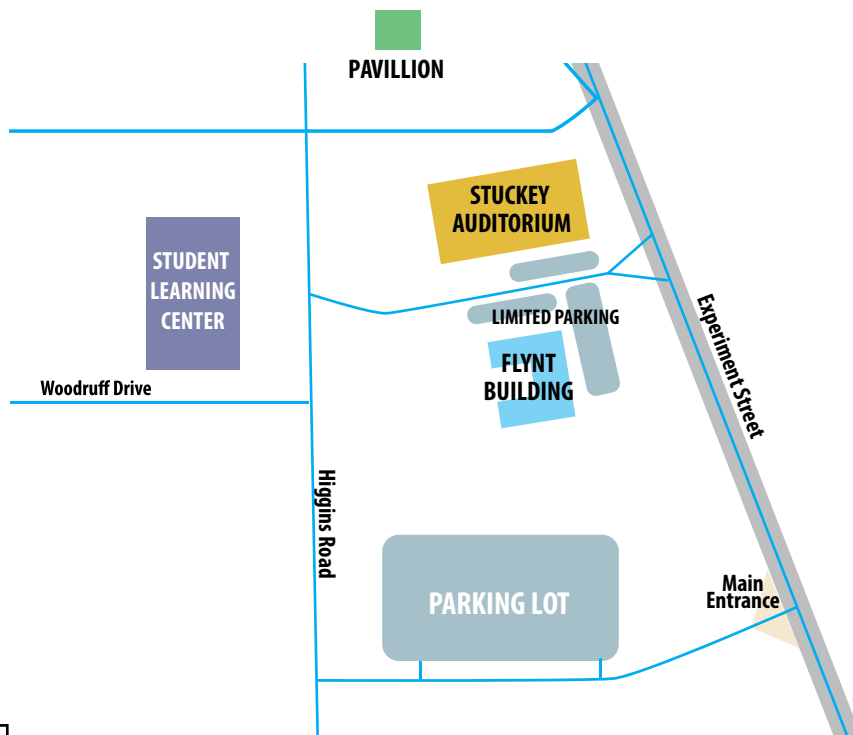
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Registration and main sessions are held in the Stuckey Auditorium.

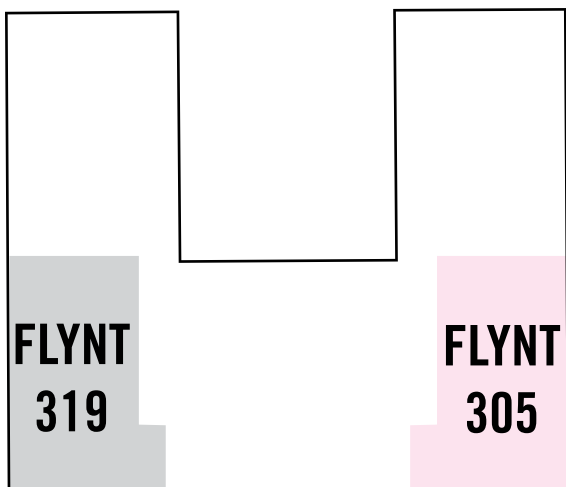
The honey show will be held in the Student Learning Center, room 111.

Vendors are located in the Student Learning Center lobby and atrium areas on both the first and second floors.

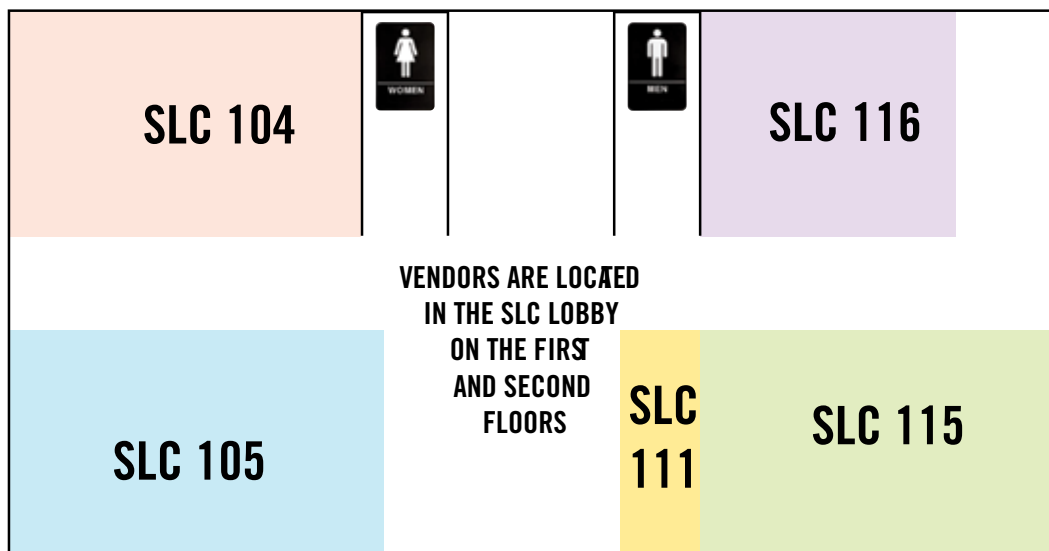
Breakouts are located in the Stuckey Auditorium, in four rooms in the Student Learning Center and in two rooms in the Flynt building.



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