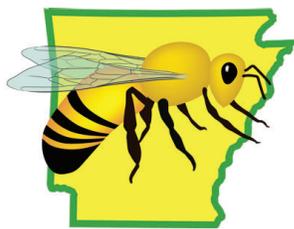


# Arkansas Beekeepers Association



Fall Conference  
October 5-6, 2019  
Bentonville, Arkansas

The ABA Fall Conference will return to Northwest Arkansas this year. Our meeting will be held at the Doubletree Suites in Bentonville (301 SE Walton Blvd). A limited block of rooms has been reserved on site for our meeting attendees. To get a special rate, call the hotel at 479-845-7770 to book your room and tell them you are with the Arkansas Beekeepers! Join your fellow beekeepers and honey enthusiasts for a weekend in the Ozarks and catch the latest buzz on bees with old friends and new acquaintances. We will have a luncheon each day with special door prizes, and breakout sessions different topics you can choose from. The program is still evolving, but details will be on the ABA website ([arbeekeepers.org](http://arbeekeepers.org)) as things are finalized. Here are a few of the special guest speakers we are looking forward to hearing:



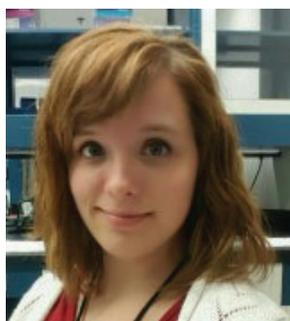
Hilary Kearney

A full-time beekeeper, artist and writer from San Diego, **Hilary Kearney** is well known for her popular website and blog ***Girl Next Door Honey*** ([girlnextdoorhoney.com](http://girlnextdoorhoney.com)) and her business by the same name. Hillary does it all! When she's not rescuing bees, teaching about bees, photographing bees or managing one of her fifty colonies, she's probably dreaming of bees. Hillary experiments with different types of hives and techniques to find practical solutions that work with her natural, treatment-free hive management strategy. On a mission to educate the public about the magic of bees, she has created numerous educational materials for beekeepers, including her new book ***QueenSpotting***, which explores the fascinating heart of every bee colony with factual information and vivid photographs of those small, but vital, queen bees.

Since first learning the craft in 1987 under the strict mentoring of a former New York State bee inspector, **Freddy Proni** soon grew a few hives into a large and successful commercial honey packing business. He now lives in North Carolina where he and his wife have downsized and operate ***Proni Honey Bee Company*** ([pronibeas.com](http://pronibeas.com)), focusing on honey production and queen breeding. With more than 30 years of experience, Freddy promotes bees through formal classes, casual workshops and practical training in all aspects of beekeeping. He also lectures on the business aspects of running a successful operation, and is actively engaged with the Farm Bureau and other agricultural and bee-related organizations. Freddy is an EAS-certified Master Beekeeper, currently serves as the vice president of the North Carolina Beekeepers Association, and also represents the industry's a part of the Honey Bee Health Coalition.



Freddy Proni



Samantha  
Hewett

**Samantha Hewett** teaches microbiology at UCA in Conway. Her current research explores the powerful antimicrobial properties of Arkansas honey against antibiotic-resistant bacteria. She will give us an overview of her findings, and you can help! Bring her a sample of your honey (8-12 oz.) with the approximate date and location it was produced. Include your name and contact information to be acknowledged when she publishes her results.



Leslie  
Fowler

**Leslie Fowler** is the Arkansas Monarch & Pollinator Coordinator with Quail Forever. She works with multiple organizations, providing knowledge and resources to increase the number of acres of habitat critical to the survival and population growth of bees, butterflies and other pollinators, and upland wildlife. She will share information with us about simple steps to conserve and improve pollinator habit to support our honey bees and other species.

# Arkansas Beekeepers Association



## 2019 Fall Conference

### ABA Honey Contest

#### Entry Requirements

- Honey must be in a clear standard pint canning jar.
- Entries will be disqualified if not in standard pint canning jar.
- No labels should be affixed to jars.
- Entries must be pure honey produced in Arkansas.

Honey will be displayed behind the registration desk prior to judging. An anonymous entry number will be used to identify contestant's containers. (Your entries will receive this number when they are submitted.) **Winning entries will not be returned, but will be awarded as door prizes.**

#### Categories (one entry per category permitted):

- Extracted Honey, extra light amber or lighter
- Extracted Honey, light amber or darker
- Comb Honey

#### Prizes will be awarded to the top three places in each category as follows:

- 1st Place \$25 & Bragging Rights
- 2nd Place \$15 & Bragging Rights
- 3rd Place \$10 & Bragging Rights

#### The following criteria will be used to judge the honey:

- Freedom from granulation and foreign material
- Freedom from air bubbles either in suspension or froth
- Flavor and aroma



### ABA Honey Exchange

The ABA will again have a **Honey Exchange** at our fall conference. This is not a contest with judges and prizes, but an opportunity for all of us to show off our skills with presentation, labels and packaging. Conference attendee are invited to bring up to three jars or bottles of their own honey. Drop off your entries at the registration desk when you arrive. You will receive one ticket for each jar you submit. All entries will be placed on display during the conference. At the end of the day on Sunday, you will be able to redeem each of your tickets for new jars of honey to take home and enjoy!

Participation is limited to no more than three (3) entries per person/family/apiary operation. Honey must be in a new, clean container, with a **minimum size of one pound** (you may bring pints, quarts, etc. but you might still only receive one-pound jars in exchange). All honey must be from your own bee hives (no store-bought stuff, please). All containers should have a label indicating where it's from. The honey exchange is open to all conference attendees, including visitors from out of state! So bring your best to share and show off, and participate to experience and compare flavors from all over.

