

Arkansas Beekeepers Association

**Fall Conference
September 24-25, 2021**



**Ozark Folk Center
Mountain View, AR**

Friday, September 24

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Open Registration - Coffee Social - Visit Vendors
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Steve Cline: ABA President's Opening Address
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Dr. Jeff Harris: Almost 30 Years with Varroa Mites – Will It Ever Get Better?
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Jacob Bates: Arkansas State Plant Board Update
10:45 - 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Audrey Sheridan: Small Hive Beetle Management: Is Trapping Our Best Option?
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - On Your Own
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Dr. Jeff Harris: History and Update on Breeding Varroa Resistant VSH Bees
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Richard Underhill: Splitting Honey Bee Colonies
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break & Visit Vendors
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Jon Zawislak: Extension Update

Saturday, September 25

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Open Registration, Coffee Social, Visit Vendors
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Business Meeting (ABA Members Only)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Dr. Jeff Harris: Queen Rearing without Grafting Bee Larvae
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Audrey Sheridan: A Closer Look at Honey Bee Caste Differentiation
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - On Your Own
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Honey Show Winners & Silent Auction Winners Announced
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Coleman Little: Arkansas Native Bees
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Claire Green: Using Mushroom Extracts to Fight Mites and Viruses
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break & Last Chance to Visit Vendors
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Michael van Ingen: Removing Honey Bees from Structures

See you next year!



Dr. Jeff Harris is the beekeeping specialist for Mississippi State University. He began with beekeeping at 8 years old, and now has over 48 years of experience with honey bees. He worked for a commercial queen producer in Montgomery, Alabama, and then spent more than 15 years with the USDA, researching and breeding honey bees for improved disease and mite resistance. His current duties include educating new beekeepers about how to get started and helping commercial

beekeepers with pests, diseases and other issues that affect their livelihoods. He continues his research in breeding stronger honey bees and also works to foster cooperation between farmers and beekeepers to protect honey bees from agricultural pesticides.



Audrey Sheridan has worked in honey bee research for nearly 13 years, beginning at Oklahoma State University with a Master's in Entomology and continuing to Mississippi State, where she is a full-time Research and Extension Associate as well as pursuing a PhD. Her particular interest is in Small Hive Beetle behavior and control, but she is also excited to explore honey bee breeding with Dr. Harris. Educating the public about bees and beekeeping is one of

her favorite aspects of her job. Her interactions with the beekeeping community in her state provides excellent ideas and directions for new research as well.



Coleman Little is an Arkansas native who is a local expert on the native bees of the Natural State. His research has focused on how differences in habitat changes bee communities. He is a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, and is currently trying to document bee species diversity all over the state. Join him to learn about all those other bees!



Claire Green is a senior at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts in Hot Springs. She was awarded a research fellowship to test the effects of Arkansas mushroom extracts as a possible treatment for varroa mites and bee viruses. So far her project placed in the state and regional science fairs, and she will be giving us an update on her findings as she completes her research.



Richard Underhill is an EAS Certified Master Beekeeper and owner of Peace Bee Farm in Conway. He is a former president of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association, Tennessee Beekeepers Association, and the Memphis Area Beekeepers Association, and has taught beekeeping programs through ASU. He has travelled to Ethiopia three times to train beekeepers there, for which he was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award.



Michael van Ingen is a licensed honey bee removal specialist, working in Central Arkansas. He has experience taking feral colonies out of all kinds of homes and structures, and will be sharing some of the highlights of his adventures.



Jacob Bates lives in Charleston. He has been beekeeping for over a year now, and honey bees have become a passion for him. As the the new apiary inspector for the north half of Arkansas, Jacob looks forward to serving the state's beekeepers.



Jon Zawislak is the apiculture specialist for the UA System Division of Agriculture. He's been working and playing with honey bees for more than 20 years, and might be found in the apiary, the laboratory or the classroom.