

# "Bee Informed", A monthly Publication of the Henry County Beekeeper

January 9, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 1

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Here is your link to the  
latest edition of the  
Georgia Bee Letter

[www.ent.uga.edu/bees  
/georgia-bee.html](http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/georgia-bee.html)

## Presidents Corner

First of all thanks to all who attended the Christmas Party and hope those who could not attend will be able to attend the next one. All the food and especially the desserts were delicious. Thanks again to Richard and Frances Upchurch for finding the location and the work they put forth setting up the room. There were numerous club members who went the extra mile to make the party such a success. Each year we gain more information that will enable us to make the next party even better.

With the new year 2012 we have some new Officers & Board members, David McLeod (Vice-President), Clark Runion & Kirt Stephens (3 years Board of Directors), Brenda Patterson (News Editor) and Byron Ahrens (Web Master). Please, if you see news worthy articles that you think the club would benefit from, pass them along to Brenda Patterson. It is hard to put together a newsletter without your help. You will also see a new look at our web site ([www.henrycountybeekeepers.org](http://www.henrycountybeekeepers.org)). While taking on the Web Master responsibilities, Byron Ahrens put us onto a site that will give us much more storage space and it is at no cost to the club (with the exception of the domain name). We have some great ideas to improve our site and hope you continue to visit and offer suggestions. Thanks also to the prior Board Members and Officers, Mike Close, Ned Isaacson, Steve Loftin and Tommy Moon, who devoted time to get our club where it is today.

One of our club members, Jeff Barnett, a Major and a 16 year veteran of the US Marines, recently was transferred to California so he packed up his 100 bee colonies and drove to his next duty station. You might remember Jeff's January 2011 program, Honeybee Immune System, he did for our meeting. I just received an email from Jeff and he said, "*Hi Tom, well the bees arrived here in good shape however I lost about 85 colonies due to a combination of starvation, pesticides, and yellow jackets. Very frustrating, so I will probably only have about 15 colonies to start the bee year with.*" A few days later I got a phone call from Jeff and he will be going to Afghanistan to handle the logistics of shipping equipment back to the states. So he said his beekeeping will be in limbo until he gets back although he thought he might be able to raise some queens before leaving. Please keep Jeff in your thoughts and prayers.

I hope to see you at the next bee meeting, Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, when veteran beekeeper Richard Upchurch will tell us how to put honeybee equipment together and other facts that will help new beekeepers and veterans alike.

Thanks for being a beekeeper

Tom Bonnell – President Henry County Beekeepers

Find us at [www.henrycountybeekeepers.org](http://www.henrycountybeekeepers.org)

## 2012 Henry County Beekeeper Club Officers

Tom Bonnell                      President

David McLeod                      Vice-President

Fred Zimmerman                      Secretary

Debbie Bonnell                      Treasurer

Clark Runion                      Director Three (3) Year 2011 through 2011.

Kirt Stephens                      Director Three (3) Year 2011 through 2011.

Billy Engle                      Director Two (2) Year 2011 through 2013.

Mike Close                      Director Two (2) Year 2011 through 2013.

Howard Emory                      Director One (1) Year 2011 through 2012.

Richard Upchurch                      Director One (1) Year 2011 through 2012.

Brenda Patterson                      News Editor

Howard Emory                      Raffle Coordinator

Byron Ahrens                      Web Master

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## Young Harris Beekeeping Institute

### 21st Annual Beekeeping Institute Dates: May 10-12, 2012

The UGA honey bee program offers the annual Beekeeping Institute in cooperation with Young Harris College. Since 1992 the Institute has represented the single most comprehensive opportunity in the Southeast for concentrated training in all aspects of practical beekeeping. Held on the beautiful campus of Young Harris (GA) College in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Institute is a two-day event with lectures and workshops by leading authorities on honey bees.

There are separate curricula for beginners and more experienced beekeepers, as well as fun optional activities such as a competitive honey show, gadgets display, and practical examinations.

Registration is not yet open for 2012

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## Upcoming Events

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We are a Family Bee Club.

Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM

Public Safety Building Community Room 116

Zack Hinton Parkway South, McDonough, GA.

Monthly Bee Meeting Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. 7:00 PM

### Tentative Meeting Programs

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January 10, 2012

Program - Hive, Frame, & Foundation Assembly

Speaker - Richard Upchurch

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February 14, 2012

Program - My Life in Beekeeping

Speaker-Victor Halbgewachs

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**The Beekeeping Short Course, Saturday, February 25, 2012, is just around the corner. Pre-Register Program Fee is \$25.00 or \$30.00 day of the program at the door. Children under 18 with an adult are free (need to know names). Members cost \$10.00**

**For more information, you can contact:  
Tom Bonnell at**

**770-473-5434**

## Beekeeping - The Complete Beekeeping Short Course, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Assoc.



**Event Date(s):** 1/21/2012

**Venue / Location Information:**

Name: Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Address: 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE

City: Atlanta

State: GA

**Event Time / Additional Information:** 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Contact Info:** Gina Gallucci, [GinaG@mindspring.com](mailto:GinaG@mindspring.com)

**Web site:** [www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/](http://www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org/)

This course is for teachers, master gardeners, both new and experienced beekeepers, students, government employees, and others who are interested in learning about Honey Bees and Beekeeping. It's everything you need to know to get started in beekeeping with at The Complete Beekeeping Short Course sponsored by the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. Experts, Extension Teachers, and Master Beekeepers from all over Georgia are the instructors.

The fee for the one day course is only \$95.00 and includes:

- \* Morning coffee and light breakfast, a catered lunch, and a "HONEY" of an afternoon snack.
- \* First class presentations by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, UGA experts, and experienced Master Beekeepers.
- \* Displays of beekeeping equipment and hive products.
- \* A honey tasting.
- \* Educational materials related to the presentations.
- \* Goody bag of honey bee related items including First Lessons in Beekeeping by Dr. Keith Delaplane.
- \* Admission to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and parking are included in the cost.
- \*THIS WILL MAKE A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE\*

Honey Bees and Beekeeping-

In this one day beekeeping class you will learn the facts about honey bees and the fundamentals of beekeeping.

Registration: [www.beekeepingshortcourse.com/registration.htm](http://www.beekeepingshortcourse.com/registration.htm)

# Head-Butting Decision Making

## **Stop Signals Provide Cross Inhibition in Collective Decision Making by Honeybee Swarms**

Head-butting isn't usually a good persuasion tactic for humans, but a new study shows that this behavior seems to help honeybees reach a consensus on new hive sites. In the decision-making process of swarming bees, where multiple "scout" bees relay information about suitable locations to other bees, the insects duke it out, head-butting each other until they come to a collective agreement. The process is akin to what happens in complex mammalian brains, where humans and other animals make decisions based on information relayed by multiple neurons. Tom Seeley and colleagues established honeybee swarms on Appledore Island, in Maine. The researchers gave scout bees a choice of two identical nest boxes. Scouts visiting one box were marked with yellow paint, and those visiting the other box were marked with pink paint. During the hive site selection process, scouts advertise potential locations by performing a wiggly dance. The team observed that dancing scouts with yellow paint received significantly more head-butts from scouts with pink paint and vice versa, demonstrating that the scouts are attempting to stop the dances of bees drawing attention to a competing site. As the head-butts accumulate, travel to other sites ceases and the bees prepare to swarm to the site that was best represented. The observations indicate that head-butting helps honeybee swarms reach a rapid consensus on where to call home, a finding confirmed by computational models.

"Stop Signals Provide Cross Inhibition in Collective Decision Making by Honeybee Swarms"

By T.D. Seeley at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY;

P.K. Visscher at University of California, Riverside in Riverside, CA;

T. Schlegel, N.R. Franks at University of Bristol in Bristol, UK;

P.M. Hogan, J.A.R. Marshall at University of Sheffield in Sheffield, UK. Science Magazine.

# Vendor's Page

Vendors who have supported Henry County Beekeeper Club

## **Bee-Yond Wonderful Bee Farm**

Mike Sorensen  
McDonough, GA 30252  
Phone: 404-372-8295  
Email: [mtsorensen@bellsouth.net](mailto:mtsorensen@bellsouth.net)  
[www.beeyondwonderful.com](http://www.beeyondwonderful.com)

## **Brenda's Cakes**

Juliette, Georgia 31046  
478-447-3403  
Email: [brendarumney@bellsouth.net](mailto:brendarumney@bellsouth.net)

## **Buster's Bees**

Jonesboro, Georgia 30236  
770-389-0721  
Email: [bustersbees@yahoo.com](mailto:bustersbees@yahoo.com)  
[www.bustersbees.com](http://www.bustersbees.com)

## **Dadant & Sons Inc.**

Hamilton, Illinois 62341  
Phone: 217-847-3324  
Email: [Dadant@dadant.com](mailto:Dadant@dadant.com)  
[www.dadant.com](http://www.dadant.com)

## **Chick-fil-A**

McDonough, Georgia

## **OB's Restaurant**

McDonough, Georgia

## **Publix Super Markets, Inc.**

### **Atlanta Division**

InMark North America  
Tracy Taylor, Packaging Consultant  
[tracyt@inmarkinc.com](mailto:tracyt@inmarkinc.com)  
[www.packagemyhoney.com](http://www.packagemyhoney.com)

## **Daniels Scientific Inc.**

Glass & Plastic Food Containers  
Greenville, SC 29605  
Phone: 864-277-1309  
Email: [lisa.willoughby@packagesupply.com](mailto:lisa.willoughby@packagesupply.com)  
[www.danielsscscientific.com](http://www.danielsscscientific.com)

## **The Walter T. Kelley Company**

Clarkson, KY 42726  
Toll-Free Order line: 800-233-2899  
Email: [sales@kelleybees.com](mailto:sales@kelleybees.com)  
[www.kelleybees.com](http://www.kelleybees.com)

## **Pigeon Mountain Trading Company**

Lafayette, GA 30728  
Phone: (706) 638-1491  
Email: [info@pigeonmountaintrading.com](mailto:info@pigeonmountaintrading.com)  
[www.pigeonmountaintrading.com](http://www.pigeonmountaintrading.com)

## **Beekeeping Supplies**

PN & Evelyn Williams  
Forest Park, Georgia 30297  
404-366-6404  
Email: [honeyman2@aol.com](mailto:honeyman2@aol.com)

## **Bliss**

Shelley DeLisle, Owner  
McDonough, GA 30253  
678-272-6222  
[www.Bliss-Atlanta.com](http://www.Bliss-Atlanta.com)

## **Morgan Apiaries**

**Bruce Morgan**  
196 W.J.Archer Rd.  
Sparta, GA 31087  
706-444-7118  
[rbmorgan@hughes.net](mailto:rbmorgan@hughes.net)

Find us at [www.henrycountybeekeepers.org](http://www.henrycountybeekeepers.org)

## Things to do in January

- **ORDER BEES.** If you plan to order bees this year now is the time to get your order in.
- **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE.** Fix and clean equipment that you can in preparation for next year.
- **CONDUCT VISUAL INSPECTIONS.** If we have a warm day, go out and do an external visual inspection and see if you have bee's flying. Don't open the hive, just watch and see if the bees are flying. Check and see if some of hives are flying and some are not.
- **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE.** Start building and painting any equipment you plan to use in the spring. You'll be busy in spring so think about what you can get done now to prepare.

*Do you have a story, article,  
book title or bee joke that you  
would like to see in the  
newsletter?  
Send your information to  
[brendampatterson@gmail.com](mailto:brendampatterson@gmail.com)*

Find us at [www.henrycountybeekeepers.org](http://www.henrycountybeekeepers.org)