The dates for the 2007 Young Harris College/UGA Beekeeping Institute are set! Please circle May 17, 18, 19 on your calendar. Program and registration information due out in March.

EAS Comes to Georgia for the First Time

Over two months ago the 51st annual EAS short course and conference was held in Young Harris, Georgia, and I would like, for the last time, to dedicate this issue to the meeting. For the past several years our lab was heavily involved in organizing the 2006 EAS conference, but concludes with this issue. The next issue, which will arrive in December, will highlight the latest research from the UGA bee lab but for now I wanted to show you what a great meeting our state hosted. For those of you who attended the conference I hope you had a grand time and for those who missed it, well, we’re sorry you missed it.

The Georgia Beekeepers Association, Young Harris College staff, Bee Culture magazine staff, and the UGA bee lab pulled together to put on one of the best meetings our fine state has had the privilege of hosting. Three years ago when Georgia was asked to host the 2006 meeting I knew it would be a challenge. Not that Georgia couldn’t rise to the occasion, but it was mighty far for most to drive and the south has a reputation for being hot in August. I still don’t know where they came up with that idea! Anyway, it was our goal to make the southern experience one to remember. Let me summarize the week for you.
We had over 360 participants, 44 world class speakers, 22 outstanding vendors, perfect weather, excellent food, a superb location and a grand ole time getting acquainted.

Keith Fielder, Robert Brewer, and Jim Driggers prepare the barbecue.

We ate grits in the morning and roasted hog and shrimp at night; we attended lectures and workshops and learned from the best researchers and beekeepers in the world; we danced to blue grass and sipped on moonshine; we watched the south rise again and win the first ever JeoparBee Contest.

JM Sikes takes a break after cooking 300 pounds of shrimp for the low country boil.

Bob Binnie pouring moonshine for the Southern toast following the theme “let the Georgia moonshine on you,”
The Hog Mountain Boys entertaining the crowd during the Wednesday night Hog Roast and Hoe Down.

We toasted to the south with help from General Forrest and laughed at our southern ways.

Steve Forrest, or General Forrest, delivering the toast to the south.

We viewed the newest in beekeeping equipment and marveled over the crafts.

Vendor area located in the main conference building.
We had honey from all parts of the country and judged them one by one.

A very successful honey show with participants from all over the country.

EAS honey judges headed by Michael Young and Robert Brewer.
We talked for hours about our favorite subject then got up and did it again.

Over 350 people attended both the Wednesday and Thursday night hog roast and shrimp boil.

We swam the Hiawassee and enjoyed the view.

PN Williams, Steve Forrest, Fred Rossman and Bill Owens take a break to swim the Hiawassee River.
We dressed in our finest southern attire and arrived as Rhetts and Scarletts, generals and presidents and rednecks straight out of the movie Deliverance.

Members of EAS dressed the part for the Southern Ball.

Dr. Delaplane, Hambleton Award winner, Jennifer Berry, 2006 EAS President, and Michael Young, Welch Honey Judge, showing off their southern attire.
Carl and Virginia Webb enjoying the music provided by the Artie Ball Swing band.

PN and Evelyn Williams enjoying the Queen Producers Ball and Banquet closing the conference on Friday night.
We learned, we listened, we laughed; we discussed, we argued, we agreed. We were beginners and experts, business folk and hobbyist, northerners, and southerners. But we all came together under one heading….we were beekeepers.

For some folks in attendance, this was their first EAS short course and conference. Listening to their comments, they had a spectacular time and plan to attend other EAS conferences in the future. One of our goals for this year’s meeting was to generate some excitement for EAS here in the south while keeping our northern counterparts happy as well. I hope we succeeded.

Over the past month I have received numerous cards and letters telling me what a great time they had and what a wonderful meeting. Well, I wish I could take all the praise for myself, but I just can’t. There were many people that pulled together and worked their fannies off to prove that Georgia was going to shine in the land of EAS. I thanked them personally at the Queen Breeder’s Ball and Banquet but want to do so again. Without their help, this meeting would still have proceeded but with limited success. It would have been just another meeting. Nothing special.
Let me first start with those who donated money or items for our conference. Donations really helped EAS stay out of the red this year. Many members of the board were concerned that we would not have the participants needed to keep EAS afloat for another year. That’s why I felt it necessary to ask for donations. Running a meeting and an organization of this size isn’t cheap, as I found out. Boy did I ever find out! Below is a list of people and companies that donated money and products which helped out tremendously. Thank you!

- Farm Bureau for sponsoring the Low Country Boil at a cost of $3,500.00.
- Rossman Apiaries, Shumans Apiaries, Carl & Virginia Webb, for sponsoring the Queen Breeders Ball and Banquet Friday night.
- Ingles Market in Hiawassee for donating the meat for the BBQ Wednesday night.
- Steve and Sandy Forrest from Brushy Mountain for their generous donation.
- Clay Bell who donated over half the cases of bottled Melwood Water we drank during the meeting.
- Georgia Peanut commission for donating the little packets of peanuts for the breaks.
- Lane Packing Company for donating peaches for the breaks.

I also want to thank all of our speakers. We were very fortunate to have the caliber of speakers that we did this year and I, we, thank them all for taking the time to come and deliver such excellent lectures and workshops. I would like to point out two of our “out of country” quests. First, Dr. Denis Anderson. He took several weeks out of his hectic schedule to come to the US from Australia and give us a full week of lectures and workshops. Everyone loved him. His lectures were informative and covered all topics concerning Varroa mites.

Denis Anderson opens the Wednesday morning conference talking about *Varroa destructor.*
Plus, who could forget Michael Young. He flew in from Ireland and showed us how to cook, paint with wax and be a better honey show participant. It is always a pleasure having him on our shores. Also, while he was here, he surprised his lovely wife with a “renewal of their vows” wedding ceremony. What a beautiful experience.

Michael Young showing us Yanks how to properly eat shrimp.

Robert Brewer, Michael & Rae Young, Brenda Brewer, and Reverend Seckinger at Michael and Rae’s wedding ceremony.

Another person that needs to be thanked is Dann Purvis from Purvis Brothers Apiaries. He lent us the use of his bee colonies during the week of the meeting. It is difficult for beekeepers in the northern part of the state to lend 25 colonies during the month of July because the sourwood is in bloom. But Dann was extremely gracious in allowing us the use of his colonies. He also had a tour of his queen breeding operation at his house which many people attended and enjoyed.
Now for the volunteers. These people need the biggest “thank you” of them all. THANK YOU!!!! These folks showed up and worked hard. I recently attended the fall EAS board of directors meeting in Delaware. The board could not say enough about the Georgia volunteers. They were extremely impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our Georgia staff. Here it was announced that the 2006 meeting made more money than any other meeting in decades. The reason is simple, we did all the work ourselves. Instead of having the college cater our morning and evening breaks, we did it ourselves. Instead of catering the Wednesday and Thursday meals, we cooked it ourselves.

JM Sikes and Harold Watkins cooking the shrimp for the low country boil.
This took a lot of time and effort and without the help of the volunteers there would have been no way we could have accomplished this task. I’ve never seen a harder working group of people. They truly wanted to make the 2006 Georgia meeting the best ever! Some of these folks started helping months prior to the start of the meeting and I can’t thank them enough. One of those people is Cindy Bee. A year prior to the meeting I asked Cindy if she would help coordinate the volunteers. She said no problem and took care of every detail. She started at sun up and didn’t stop working till sun down. Realize Cindy and the other volunteers, that your help made the difference between having an average meeting to having a fantastic one. Thanks to all of you who attended, volunteered and frankly worked your tail off to pull together one of the best EAS meetings in decades.

Thank You!!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cindy Bee</th>
<th>Kim Flottum</th>
<th>Kathy Summers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desty Bridges</td>
<td>Virginia Webb</td>
<td>PN &amp; Evelyn Williams</td>
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<td>Bill Owens</td>
<td>JM &amp; Frieda Sikes</td>
<td>Dawn Faegan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Brewer</td>
<td>Keith Fielder</td>
<td>Bob Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dann, Rose, Koda, Jack, Matt, and Alex Purvis</td>
<td>Dan Harris</td>
<td>Ann Harmon</td>
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<td>Kathy &amp; Joe Swaney</td>
<td>Jill &amp; Danny King</td>
<td>Loretta Surpreenant</td>
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<td>Susie Axtell</td>
<td>Cheryl Idol</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Nancy Troup</td>
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<td>Eleanor Spicer</td>
<td>Jim Driggers</td>
<td>John Tulloch</td>
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<td>Susan Rogers</td>
<td>Paul Arnold</td>
<td>Chris Service</td>
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<td>Dewey Caron</td>
<td>Jim Tew</td>
<td>Clarence Collison</td>
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<td>Dale Richter</td>
<td>Roy Smith</td>
<td>Steve Genta</td>
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<td>Rebecca &amp; Harold Watkins</td>
<td>Bob Binnie</td>
<td>Louisa Franklin</td>
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<td>Jimmy Carmack</td>
<td>Al Rodriguez</td>
<td>Jim Williamson</td>
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<td>Edward Ayers</td>
<td>Andi &amp; Brendan Beyers</td>
<td>Michael Gailey</td>
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<td>Billy Posey</td>
<td>Gail Colson</td>
<td>Martha &amp; Dick Keifer</td>
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<td>Gary McGlaun</td>
<td>Randy Tudor</td>
<td>Terry &amp; Joe Kerns</td>
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<td>Jim Quick</td>
<td>Lee Hagan</td>
<td>Jim Ovbey</td>
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<td>Durant Warwick</td>
<td>Allen Watkins</td>
<td>John Haaseth</td>
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<td>Barbara Lahn</td>
<td>Dudley Sisk</td>
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I just need to say a few more things as the past president. One, I really enjoyed being president. Ordering people around, slamming my gavel on the desk, the secret service men, the limo, private jets….but seriously, I truly loved the job and organizing the meeting. Probably not ready to do it again any time soon. It took a bit more time than I imagined, but would definitely consider doing it again in the future. But the second thing I wanted to say is EAS is about to lose someone who has lived and breathed EAS for the past eight years. Our chairman, Kim Flottum. For the two years preceding the 2006 conference, I was calling Kim at least once a week asking for advice. Then the year of the meeting, I was calling almost daily, and months prior, several times a day. He made himself available and helped at every turn. I suggest that the next president and chairman seek his advice. He knows a lot about running a conference and an organization. The next chairman has very large shoes to fill indeed. Thank You Kim for all you have done for me and EAS.

Kim Flottum walking the campus before the start of the conference.

Like I said earlier, this will be the last issue dedicated to the 2006 EAS conference and short course. The December issue will be back to profiling research and news about honey bees. Take care.

Thank you to Bill Mondjack for allowing us the use of his photographs.

**Electronic Delivery of Georgia Bee Letter**

If you would like to receive *Georgia Bee Letter* via email, send me your address at jbee@uga.edu. Please put a reference to the GBL in the subject line so I know you are requesting the newsletter. Every day I receive numerous advertisements or “spam,” and I delete them immediately. If you have sent me your address and not received the GBL, please send it again. Since the last time I sent out this newsletter I was hit with a virus which wiped out all my new/old mail. Yes, this has happened before so I have changed my e-mail address which should be more secure. Also, notify me if there are changes to your club meeting times or contact persons, or any interesting information about your club.
How to Get Georgia Bee Letter

GBL can be received electronically by emailing your request to jbee@uga.edu

Regular Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Time &amp; Frequency</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattahoochee Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm bimonthly, second Monday</td>
<td>Oxbow Meadows Nature Center, Columbus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee Beekeepers Club</td>
<td>7:00 pm third Thursday</td>
<td>Cherokee County Justice Building, Canton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Area Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Monday</td>
<td>Southbridge Tennis Complex, Savannah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coweta Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Monday</td>
<td>Coweta Fairgrounds Conference Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central Georgia Bee Club</td>
<td>7:00 pm fourth Monday, (bi-monthly)</td>
<td>Burke Co. Office Park Complex, Bishop Community Center, Bishop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:30 pm first Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foothills Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm third Tuesday, February - September</td>
<td>Banks Co. Ext Office, 413 Evans St., Homer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forsyth Beekeepers Club</td>
<td>6:30 pm third Monday</td>
<td>Forsyth County Library, Cumming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Monday</td>
<td>GA Farm Bureau, 1620 Bass Rd., Macon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Tuesday</td>
<td>Dunwoody Nature Center, Dunwoody</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm first Tuesday</td>
<td>Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Mountain Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Thursday</td>
<td>Northeast Georgia Regional Library, Clarksville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm second Monday, Jan - June &amp; Sept</td>
<td>Walker County Agric. Center, Rock Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeast Georgia Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm fourth Tuesday, Aug-March</td>
<td>Waconia School Building, Waycross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Georgia Beekeepers Association</td>
<td>7:30 pm last Tuesday, even months</td>
<td>Swords Apiaries, Moultrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tara Beekeepers Assn (Clayton Co. area)</td>
<td>7:30 pm third Monday</td>
<td>Reynolds Nature Preservation</td>
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Beekeeping Subscriptions

- Bee Culture, 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256  (330) 725-6677
- The Speedy Bee, P.O. Box 998, Jesup, Georgia 31598-0998  (912) 427-4018

Resource People for Georgia Beekeeping

- Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Assoc.  
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- Cherokee Bee Club  
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- Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association  
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- Coweta Beekeepers Association  
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- Mountain Beekeepers Association  
  Larry Sams, President  
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  Hayesville, NC
- Northeast Mountain Beekeepers Assoc.  
  John Haaseth, President  
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- Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association  
  Dave Reed, President  
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- Southeastern Georgia Beekeepers Assoc.  
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- S.W. Georgia Beekeepers  
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