



## Keynote Speakers

### Alison McAfee

Alison completed her Ph.D. in Genome Science and Technology at the University of British Columbia, where she studied molecular mechanisms of hygienic behavior. Now, she is studying queen quality and reproductive health as a postdoctoral fellow at North Carolina State University. Alison writes a monthly column, *Science Insider*, for *American Bee Journal* and her own research has been reported in *New Scientist* and *Scientific American*. She also enjoys steep hikes up snowy mountains, catching huge, ugly fish, and breaking speed limits on her bicycle.



### Zachary Lamas

Zac Lamas is a PhD student at the University of Maryland where he studies both varroa feeding behavior and how pesticide exposures affect honey bee queens. Zac ran a migratory queen rearing company for years between NC and upstate NY. He is the owner of RockStar Queens, and continues to sell nucs and queens while in school. He is the recent recipient of the PAm-Costco Fellowship.



## Speakers

**Jim Lindau** has been keeping honeybees in Alaska and Illinois since the early 1980's. He is a certified master beekeeper and currently manages around 70 hives in and around Will and Grundy counties for honey and queen production. He makes most of his own queens and equipment used in his operation. He makes and sells beekeeping equipment for sale at [BuzzWorthyBeeworks.com](http://BuzzWorthyBeeworks.com). He also teaches beekeeping at Joliet Junior College.

**Mike Connor** is a Certified Arborist Nursery Grower, and a Beekeeper. He grew up on an orchard and Christmas tree farm and started his first hive when he was 12 years old. He is in a unique position to understand the relationships between plants, trees and bees. After College, Mike became a branch manager for Dadant and Sons Bee Supply in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There he received a real-life education in beekeeping from some of the best beekeepers in the world. He left Dadant in 1985 to run his own tree nursery and operate 200 hives. Including his time as a Municipal Arborist and Park Superintendent, Mike has spent his entire career growing and caring for plants, trees, and bees. He is a co-founder and Vice-President of the Grand Rapids Area Bee Club.

**Marcin Matelski** has been an urban beekeeper for 11 years and manages anywhere between 40-60 hives throughout the Chicagoland area. His first exposure to bees was in his early teens through his grandfather and he picked it up again later in life. Since 2015 he's also the Head Beekeeper at Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago.

**Sarah Alvestad** has been a resident of Lemont, IL for 15 years, and is originally from New Lenox, IL. She has been a beekeeper for five years, and has operated her small business, "Honey Acre Woods" for the last two. Sarah manages 10 hives in two different bee yards in Lemont and Homer Glen. She sells her bee sourced products out of her home and various vendor shows throughout the year, as well as her bee inspired merchandise on her online store that she operates through her web site. Aside from beekeeping, Sarah is a busy mom and step mother to three. She is a mega outdoor enthusiast, and enjoys several endurance sports such as, cycling, cross country skiing, and paddle boarding. Sarah's husband Jostein is a fire fighter in Elmhurst, and is also the city Bee Inspector. Sarah has a background in Secondary Education, and enjoys talking to school groups about the importance of bees being environmentally friendly.

**Angelica Carmen** is Cog Hill Golf and Country Club's Sustainability Specialist, working the last 3 years to create an environmental stewardship program for on and off-course initiatives in Lemont, IL. Angelica was born and raised in Lemont, graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in Communications and Environmental Leadership, and has a huge passion for safe and ethical food production. One of the largest endeavors she created at Cog Hill is their culinary farm, Fairway Farms and Apiary, located along one of the golf course fairways. As much as the farm supplies the clubhouse kitchen, the farm also is a host site to their 12 bee hives, cared for by Master Beekeeper Marge Trocki and Farmer Angelica Carmen. Their "Hole In One Honey" is sold at the club's proshop, utilized in their kitchen menu, and specially featured in their annual Farm to Table Dinner menus.

**Marge Trocki** has been keeping bees since 2008 and manages apiaries in several counties. With a passion for educating others, she has taught beekeeping classes in many locations, including Lyman Woods, The Morton Arboretum, and the Cook County Farm Bureau. She is a certified Master Beekeeper through the University of Montana, and currently serves on the Board of the Will County Beekeepers Association.

**Dave Meyer**, owner of Meyer Bees, has been beekeeping for over 15 years starting with just a few colonies and now managing several hundred across multiple apiaries. Located in Minooka IL (about 35 miles southwest of Chicago) Dave and his family operate a beekeeping supply showroom / warehouse, raise local queens and provide packages, nucs and queens to beekeepers. He holds a master beekeeper certification, is a producer member in the Illinois Queen Initiative and is active in many of the Chicagoland area beekeepers clubs.



**Larry Connor** a Michigan native, departed Michigan State University upon completion of his Ph.D. dissertation on strawberry pollination and assumed the position of extension apicultural entomologist at The Ohio State University in Columbus. There his program attracted the attention of investors interested in moving the Dadant Starline and Midnite Hybrid queen program to Florida to establish the world's first mass production facility for instrumentally inseminated queen honey bees. Afterwards he moved to Connecticut where he established the Beekeeping Educational Service, offering educational programs for beekeepers. Later he purchased Wicwas Press from Dr. Roger and Mary Lou Morse. He has written a series of beekeeping book: *Increase Essentials*, *Bee Sex Essentials*, *Queen Rearing Essentials* and most recently *Keeping Bees Alive*. He is currently working on his newest book, *Package Bee Essentials*.

He is the publisher and coauthor of Dewey Caron's *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*. He has also published a diverse array of titles by other authors dealing with bees, beekeeping, queen rearing and pollination. Check out [www.wicwas.com](http://www.wicwas.com).

In 2010, with the ever-increasing need for more regional self-reliance for producing queens, Larry Connor restart raising queens at the Connor Farm in Galesburg, with an eye toward mite resistance and local fitness (honey production, vigor and wintering). This program ended in 2007 when the family farm was sold and the breeding work was given to participating beekeepers.

**Jim & Karen Belli** converted an old dairy farm into the ultimate sanctuary for bees. The result is flavorful, wholesome honey that wins top honors at competitions across the country, year after year.

**Dr. Frank Yurasek**

**Jerry Gordon** is a small business owner that contributes time and resources to education and conservation. As a founding member of the Illiana Beekeepers Alliance club, he is proud to serve and contribute his skills as website manager, social media & advertising director, resources solicitation, , and frequent Lecturer. Jerry owns Indiana Honey Bees, an apiary that specializes in breeding queens, raising nucs, producing honey, pollen, propolis, and wax. Jerry has a background in herpetology and breeding venomous reptiles for zoos, and has participated in research of Pseudomonas Aeruginosa in captive vipers and cobras. Jerry started his beekeeping adventure at 8 years old when he encountered a neighbor a few block away that kept bees. His interest in biology and social behavior keeps him glued to the latest advancements in beekeeping science.

## **Keynote Descriptions**

Alison McAfee

### **Queen Forensics: Using Biomarkers to Help Diagnose Queen Failure**

Colony health and productivity is intrinsically linked to the quality of the queen, but queen quality is compromised by stressors like extreme temperatures and pesticide exposure. When the queens are stressed, their stored sperm start to die, the colonies dwindle, and they eventually fail. But we currently don't have diagnostic tools for identifying root causes of queen failure, so when it happens, beekeepers are often simply left guessing or wondering why. We are working to develop a laboratory diagnostic test to help take the guesswork out of beekeeping.

Zachary Lamas

### **Winter Prep Begins MidSummer**

Our winter success at RockStar Queens comes from our management during the midsummer. This talk goes over management that we should be doing during the season and not waiting for until the fall. We focus on requeening, varroa management and nutrition. The goal is so that colonies can rebuild healthy, intact populations by the fall.

# Breakout Descriptions

Alison McAfee

## **Finding the odorant cues that stimulate hygienic behavior**

Hygienic behaviour is a cut-throat strategy to fight disease. Worker bees seek out and destroy developing brood that is diseased, parasitized, or dying in order to protect the rest of the colony from getting sick. But we still know surprisingly little about how the behavior actually works. What odorants are the hygienic bees sensing? What genes does depend on? And can we use those genes to guide selective breeding programs to make a more disease resistant bee?

Zachary Lamas

## **Requeening**

Keeping a productive queen at the head of the hive is important, but the task is daunting to new beekeepers. We go over three methods to simplify the requeening process.

Jim Lindau

**Beginners Session 1:** Introduction to beekeeping ( i.e. what the heck am I exactly getting into!! ). Covers costs, the basic equipment needed, acquiring bees and equipment, locating your apiary. common issues for beginners.

**Beginners Session 2:** Basic Biology of the honeybee. Presents the bee caste individual life cycles and how the colony functions as a complete unit.

**Beginners Session 3:** Installing your package, feeding and managing your new hive, where to get more educational instructions and resources.

Sarah Alvestad

## **Tips for Selling What You Harvest from the Hive**

Discuss how to create a business plan for selling honey and other products of the hive, and learn about the state and local laws. Explore options for containers, packaging, and marketing and weigh the costs versus the profits of your endeavor.

Dr. Frank Yurasek

### **How I Have Been Using BVT/Acupuncture for the last 20+ Years**

The first case: An Ex Boxer in a wheelchair. Others that have followed: MS, RMS, Post-Surgical Scarring, Parkinsons, Alzheimers. The future...Micro-stinging, 20 stings to a bee. Conclusion: Safe Stinging.

Jim & Karen Belli

### **Winning with Your Honey**

Karen and Jim will discuss how to prepare liquid and comb honey for competitions and/or selling honey. Join them as they share their “secrets” for preparing entries that have earned them their status as the country’s leading honey show entrants and judges.

Belli’s will be available during the last session with their polariscope and refractometer to view any honey samples that are brought in. Honey must be in a glass bottle. Liquid honey must be in one lb. queenline or classic jars for honey shows.

Marcin Matelski

### **Reading the Frames**

We've all looked at a frame and went Huh? What's that? The purpose of this workshop is to help you understand better what your colony is doing and how you can improve your inspection skills in order to communicate better with your bees throughout the season. Happy bees leads to happy beekeeper!

Dave Meyer

### **Inspecting and Treating Hives for Mites, Diseases and Pests**

We will take a photographic look at how to identify the various problems that can happen in the hive. Once identified we will review possible steps and options for correcting the issues. The challenges discussed will include: mites, deformed wing virus, chronic bee paralysis, parasitic mite syndrome, foulbrood, hive beetles, wax moths, mice, and more.

Larry Connor

### **Keeping Bees Alive**

Sustainable beekeeping essentials

Jerry Gordon

### **Managing Colonies for Better Honey Production**

How to time the building of strong healthy colonies in conjunction with your typical local nectar flow calendar. Discuss the extra storage space for nectar and the importance of ventilation during the dehydration process of honey curing. Employing upper entrances. Understanding major and minor nectar flows. How to cope with dearth and things you can plant to keep the bees busy. How to protect their assets from robbing. Using the sun to get the most production out of your colony.

Angelica Carmen & Marge Trocki

### **Beekeeping Partnerships with Sustainable Organizations**

Led by Cog Hill Golf Club's Sustainability Specialist, Angelica Carmen, and Master Beekeeper, Marge Trocki, this session will discuss their unique golf course beekeeping partnership, sustainable land opportunities for bee yards and how those partnerships work. Explore how to develop and manage a partnership that mutually benefits the beekeeper, the vendor, and most importantly, the environment & bees. Topics covered include land challenges and opportunities for beekeeping, how to approach companies, how a partnership works, product possibilities, and more.

## **Vendor Preorders**

**Honeytree Nursery** will take pre-orders from our website and can deliver at the meeting. [www.honeytree.com](http://www.honeytree.com) Make sure to select the Honeytree Nursery (Save the Bees) in Michigan, not Canada! Under shipping type "Bee Prepared" and we'll be sure to bring those trees with us when we come.

**Meyer Bees** is a Mann Lake Authorized Dealer – any order placed before March 4, 2020 will be able to be picked up at Bee Prepared – Look up Mann Lake online, get the item numbers you want, then email [dave@meyerbees.com](mailto:dave@meyerbees.com) or call 815-521-9116 before March 4 and it will be ready for pick-up at the Conference. If items are needed before or after the conference you can always pick up your order free from his Minooka, IL showroom.



**Buzzworthy Beeworks** will be a vendor at Bee Prepared and is offering free delivery to the Conference. Go online at [buzzworthybeeworks.com](http://buzzworthybeeworks.com) to see inventory then call 815-600-9633. Again, if needed before or after conference you can always pick up your order by appointment in Braidwood, Illinois.

# Bee Prepared Conference 2020

8:00 – 8:45	Registration					
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome					<b>Arena</b>
9:00 – 9:50	Keynote Speaker: Alison McAfee <u>Queen Forensics: Using Biomarkers to Help Diagnose Queen Failure</u>					<b>Arena</b>
10:00 – 10:50	Jim Lindau <u>Beginners Session 1</u>  <b>A1</b>	Sarah Alvestad <u>Tips for Selling What You Harvest from the Hive</u>  <b>A2</b>	Dave Meyer <u>Inspecting and Treating Hives for Mites, Diseases and Pests</u>  <b>B1</b>	Mike Connor <u>Creating and Enhancing Honeybee Habitat</u>  <b>B2</b>	Zachary Lamas <u>Requeening</u>  <b>Arena</b>	
11:00 – 11:50	Panel Discussion Zachary Lamas, Dave Meyer, Larry Connor					<b>Arena</b>
11:50 – 1:00	Lunch/Vendors					<b>Arena</b>
1:00 – 1:50	Keynote Speaker: Zachary Lamas <u>Winter Prep Begins MidSummer</u>					<b>Arena</b>
2:00 – 2:10	Hive Raffle					<b>Arena</b>
2:10 – 3:00	Jim Lindau <u>Beginners Session 2</u>  <b>A1</b>	Jim & Karen Belli <u>Winning with your Honey</u>  <b>A2</b>	Dr. Frank Yurasek <u>Bee Venom Therapy 20+ Years</u>  <b>B1</b>	Angelica Carmen & Marge Trocki <u>Beekeeping Partnerships with Sustainable Organizations</u>  <b>B2</b>	Alison McAfee <u>Odorant Cues that Stimulate Hygienic Behavior</u>  <b>Arena</b>	
3:10 – 4:00	Jim Lindau <u>Beginners Session 3</u>  <b>A1</b>	Bring your honey to view with polariscope & refractometer  <b>A2</b>	Marcin Matelski <u>Reading the Frames</u>  <b>B1</b>	Jerry Gordon <u>Managing Colonies for Better Honey Production</u>  <b>B2</b>	Larry Connor <u>Keeping Bees Alive</u>  <b>Arena</b>	
4:00 – 4:30	Vendors					<b>Arena</b>

