



Speakers List - 2024 Fall Conference

- **Becky Masterman, Ph.D.-Keynote Speaker –**



Dr. Masterman obtained a PhD studying honeybee hygienic behavior in Dr. Marla Spivak's University of Minnesota Bee Lab. She led the U of M Bee Squad from 2012-2020, currently heads the Minnesota Honey Producers Association's Habitat Committee, co-writes the monthly Minding Your Bees and Cues column for Bee Culture Magazine and recently joined the Beekeeping Today Podcast team as a host.

- **Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Pollinator Health, and Apiculture Mississippi State University**



Research Areas: Apiculture and pollination biology, Bee nutrition, Impacts of multiple stressors on bee pollinators, Molecular entomology: Insect physiology / proteomics / metabolomics / lipidomic / functional biology Bee toxicology and molecular ecology!

- **Dr. Clarence Collison**, Emeritus Professor Honey Show Judge (except mead) of Entomology and Emeritus Head of the Department, of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University



Dr. Collison received a Bachelor of Science in entomology in 1968, Master of Science in 1973, and Ph.D. in 1976, all from Michigan State University with both graduate degrees in entomology specializing in apiculture. During his long and storied career, he occupied highly influential teaching and research positions, most recently at Mississippi State University. Dr. Collison's topic will be What the comb tells you about your bees. He and his wife Sally live in Estill Springs, Tennessee have three sons, Craig, Keith, and Eric, and nine grandchildren.

- **Tony V. Johnston**, Ph.D., MS, MPH Professor and Program Director Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science MSPS Fermentation Science, School of Agriculture, Middle Tennessee State University B.S. Geophysics,



Fermentation Science, Food Processing, Food Safety, Food Quality, Food Microbiology, Grape Production, Wine Production, Wine Appreciation, Food and Wine Marketing, International Studies, Public Health

University of Arkansas, 1980, M.S. Food Science, University of Arkansas, 1986
Ph.D. Food Science (Enology and Viticulture), University of Arkansas, 1995, MPH, Epidemiology, University of Florida, 2014

6 years food industry experience with Tyson Foods, Inc, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, and Sara Lee Corporation, Quality Control Manager and Technical Services Manager 6 years' experience as owner and/or winemaker at Tennessee wineries (Sumner Crest Winery and Monteagle Winery)

- **Jennifer Tsuruda**, PhD- UT-Knoxville Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology



Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda is an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she focuses her time on honeybee health, pollination and as the State's Extension Service apiculturist. Prior to her current position, she was the apiculturist for Clemson University. Her research includes honeybee foraging behavior, behavioral resistance to mites, genomic imprinting, and pesticide exposure.



- **Charlie Parton**, former TBA President, Parton Apiaries began 36 years ago in Maryville Tennessee with two hives in owner Charlie Parton's back yard.



Parton Apiaries began 36 years ago in Maryville Tennessee with two hives in owner Charlie Parton's back yard. Over the years Parton Apiaries has grown to an operation which runs eighty plus colonies and sells nukes, honey, beeswax and has done small scale pollination. Charlie has built a loyal

customer base by only selling locally produced honey and doing nothing to harm the natural product the bees produce. Charlie Parton engages in promoting beekeeping and protecting honeybees through education. He is active in the Blount County Beekeepers Association serving in multiple capacities including two terms as president. He is immediate past President for Tennessee Beekeepers Association and past East TN Regional Vice President. Charlie was selected as Tennessee Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the year in 2011 and Tennessee Beekeepers Association Life Member in 2013. Charlie speaks at local schools, farmers markets, to beekeeping associations around Tennessee and at the Heartland Apiculture Society meetings. He also mentor's beginner beekeepers each year.



- **Kent Williams**, Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Certified Master Beekeeper.



Kent operates his hives in Kentucky and Mississippi, is an EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society) Master Beekeeper and sends hives to California to pollinate almonds most years. Each spring he and his family host the Kent Williams Beekeeping School on his farm in Wingo, Kentucky. This year this event is from April 20 - 22nd. For more information go to the Lake Barkley Beekeepers



- **Mike McClanahan** Transportation Manager Environmental Division, Highway Beautification Office TDOT Pollinator Habitat Program Representative and will be a vendor, bring seeds, and send a speaker.



- **Ross Welbon**- Honey Tree Meadery

Ross a long-time beekeeper and brewer of both beer and mead, previously brewing for Little Harpeth Brewing. His time working with LHB produced countless contacts within the Nashville brewing and restaurant community, as well as their popular Mosaic IPK. His passion for beekeeping and sharing his knowledge with others knows no bounds, and he intends on pursuing a Master Beekeeper certificate in the next few years.



- **Dru Soutan**- Honey Tree Meadery

Dru is a longtime friend of Honeytree's Co-Owner Ross Welbon. He moved to Nashville in 2011 and joined the team at The Pharmacy Burger Parlor & Beer Garden in 2012. Dru has years of experience as a bartender and hospitality professional. He chose the hospitality industry because it was a good fit for his gregarious personality and allowed him the freedom to spend time outdoors doing sports and studying aquaponics. His roots started on a family Illinois, and he has been studying sustainable farming for years. He applies this passion and knowledge to contribute to Honeytree's commitment to environmental stewardship through ecologically balanced business practices. In addition to being a co-owner, he will serve as Honeytree's tasting room manager and assistant beekeeper to Ross.



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- **Mike Studer-TN State Apiarist**



State Apiarist's areas of responsibility include colony inspection, entry permits, moving colonies, pollination list, apiary registration, County or Area Beekeeping Associations Apiary Inspection Grants, collaborative research and education with the State Apiculturist and other regulatory issues. Contact Michael Studer for colony inspection, entry permits, moving colonies, pollination list, apiary registration, County or Area Beekeeping Associations Apiary Inspection Grants and other regulatory



issues.

- **Chuck Burton-TN State Apiary Inspector**



Chuck owns Burton's Bees; they produce raw local honey and pollen for sale. The local wildflower nectars in this area produce unique floral tones with no strong after bite. We also raise survivor stock queen bees and nucleus colonies for local commercial and hobbyist beekeepers. We support new beekeepers locally through education, training, and mentorship. We also educate school children on the importance of honeybees in our environment.



- **Richard Brickner- TBA Member Tennessee Beekeeper Dick Brickner shares colony management techniques including swarm control, equipment management and more. Recorded in Columbia, Tennessee.**



- **Jessica Dodds-Davis- tentative**

The mission of Honeybee Tennessee is to educate communities on the significant role honeybees play in agriculture and in our environment. Honeybee Tennessee seeks to inspire Tennesseans to take action to protect, preserve and foster the state's honeybee population. Founded in 2017, Honeybee Tennessee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that educates and aids people and organizations within the Volunteer State who are interested in honeybees. Jessica Davis, founder, and executive director of Honeybee Tennessee,



serves as a mentor for learners of all ages. She visits classrooms from pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade as well as civic organizations and clubs.