



# MBA Annual Convention

## Advanced Technology Center

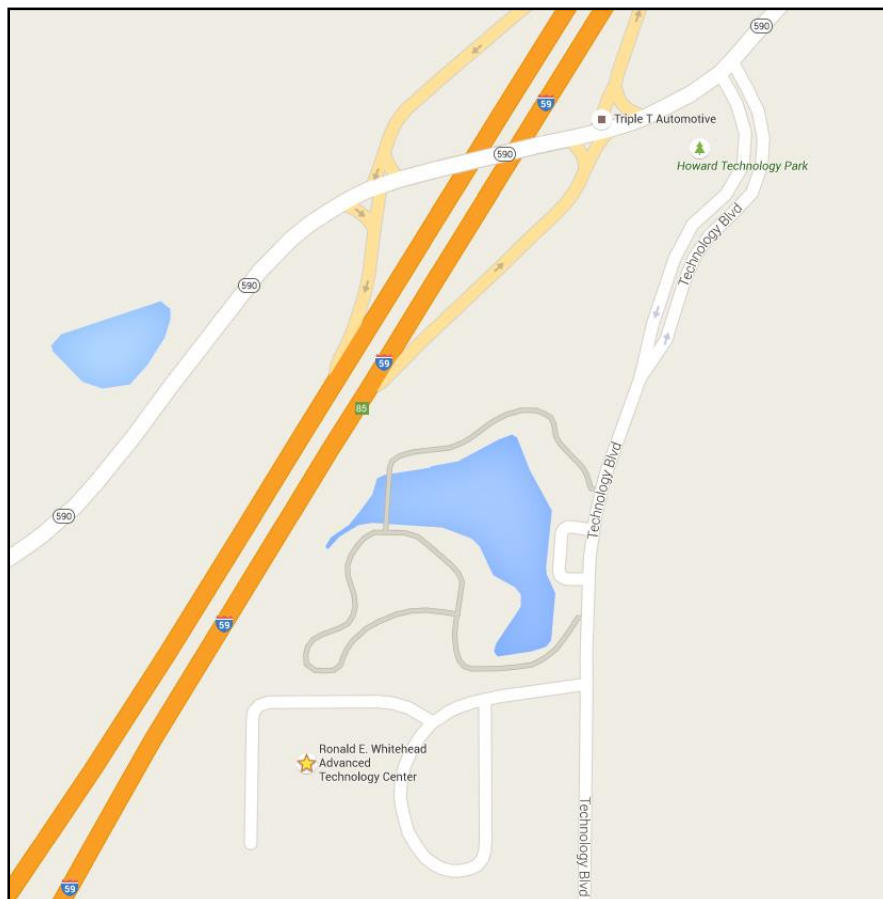
### Jones County Junior College

#### Ellisville, MS

November 6–7, 2015

Go to Exit 85 on Interstate 59 (intersection with Highway 590; approximately 10 miles south of Laurel and the southern-most exit for Ellisville and Ellisville State School). The Howard Technology Park is 1/10th mile east on Highway 590.

Jones County Junior College Advanced Technology Center is approximately 2/10th mile down Technology Boulevard, on the right.



Board of Directors meeting will be 9:00–10:30 am at a location TBA.

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## Agenda for MBA Annual Convention 2015

### General Session

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**Date:** Friday, November 6—Day One

**Location:** TBA

Period	Description	Speaker
10:30–11:45 am	Registration and Check In Entries Received for Honey & Wax Contest	Tables Out Front

### General Session

Moderator – Jeff Harris

12:00–12:15 pm	<b>Opening Remarks, Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Austin Smith MBA President</b>
12:15–1:00 pm	<b>Queen Quality</b>	<b>Dr. Larry Connor</b>
1:00–1:30 pm	<b>Update from the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding &amp; Genetics Lab</b>	<b>Dr. Tom Rinderer</b>
1:30–2:00 pm	<b>Current Events in the Realm of Varroa-resistant Bees</b>	<b>Dr. Bob Danka</b>
2:00–2:15 pm	Break, Vendors, Purchase MBA Shirts and Caps	
2:15–2:30 pm	Door Prizes	
2:30–3:00 pm	<b>Irradiation of Combs: Effects on the Overall Health of Bees</b>	<b>Dr. Lilia de Guzman</b>
3:00–3:30 pm	<b>Improving Resistance to <i>Nosema ceranae</i></b>	<b>Dr. Lanie Bourgeois</b>
3:30–3:45 pm	Break, Vendors, Purchase Shirts and Caps	
3:45–4:00 pm	Door Prizes	
4:00–5:15 pm	<b>Beeswax – From Rendering Cappings to Candles</b>	<b>Virginia Webb</b>
5:30–6:30 pm	Honey Tasting Social – Everyone is invited (bring your honey)	TBA
6:30–9:00 pm	Banquet Dinner / MBA Beekeeper of the Year Paul Ott* will entertain us during the meal	TBA

\* We thank Mississippi Farm Bureau for sponsoring our guest speaker tonight.

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# Agenda for MBA Annual Convention 2015

## General Session

**Date:** Saturday, November 7—Day Two

**Location:** TBA

Period	Description	Speaker
Moderator – H. Blackwell / J. Harris / A. Smith / J. Thompson		
7:30–8:30 am	Registration	Tables Out Front
8:30–8:45 am	Introduction & Announcements – Separate sessions begin	Smith or Harris
8:45–9:30 am	<b>Honey Bee Foraging Behavior</b>	<b>Audrey Sheridan</b>
9:30–10:15 am	<b>Importance of Genetic Diversity in the Honey Bee Colony</b>	<b>Dr. Clarence Collison</b>
10:15–10:30 am	Break, Vendors, Purchase Shirts and Caps	
10:30–10:45 am	Door Prizes	
10:45–11:30 am	<b>Marketing Honey – Outside the Beehive</b>	<b>Virginia Webb</b>
11:30–12:00 pm	Winners of the Honey / Wax Contest	Webb / Harris
12:15–1:15 pm	Chick-fil-A Lunch	
1:30–2:15 pm	<b>Applying the Basics of Honey Bee Biology</b>	<b>Dr. Clarence Collison</b>
2:15–3:00 pm	<b>Varroa Biology Update</b>	<b>Dr. Jeff Harris</b>
3:00–3:15 pm	Break, Vendors, Purchase Shirts and Caps	
3:15–3:30 pm	Door Prizes	
3:30–4:15 pm	<b>Legislative Update</b>	<b>Steve Coy</b>
4:15–5:15 pm	MBA Annual Business Meeting <b>(only 2015 MBA members vote)</b>	

# Agenda for MBA Annual Convention 2015

## Beginners Workshop

**Date: Saturday, November 7—Day Two**

**Location: TBA**

Period	Description	Speaker
Moderator – H. Blackwell / J. Harris / A. Smith / J. Thompson		
8:45–9:30 am	<b>Basic Beekeeping Equipment</b>	<b>Michael Scheel</b>
9:30–10:15 am	<b>Queen Biology for Beginners</b>	<b>Carl Webb</b>
10:15–10:30 am	Break, Vendors, Purchase Shirts and Caps	
10:30–10:45 am	Door Prizes	
10:45–11:30 am	<b>Management of the Small Hive Beetle</b>	<b>Audrey Sheridan</b>
11:30–12:00 pm	Winners of the Honey / Wax Contest	Webb / Harris
12:15–1:15 pm	Chick-fil-A Lunch	
1:30–2:15 pm	<b>Seasonal Management</b>	<b>Dr. Jeff Harris</b>
2:15–3:00 pm	<b>The Sustainable Apiary</b>	<b>Dr. Larry Connor</b>
3:00–3:15 pm	Break, Vendors, Purchase Shirts and Caps	
3:15–3:30 pm	Door Prizes	
3:30–4:15 pm	<b>Diagnosing Problems with Bee Diseases and Pests</b>	<b>Dr. Clarence Collison</b>
4:15–5:15 pm	MBA Annual Business Meeting <b>(only 2015 MBA members vote)</b>	

Funds for this program were provided through the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, USDA Specialty Crop Grant Program. We also acknowledge the support from the following sponsors:



## About Our Speakers



**Dr. Lanie Bourgeois** is a Research Molecular Biologist working at the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA. She investigates possible mechanisms of resistance to *Nosema* and provides molecular support (e.g. certification of ARS Russian Honey Bees) for the various bee breeding projects that are conducted by the lab. She also conducts research on gene expression and the genetic basis for resistance in Varroa-resistant honey bees.



**Dr. Clarence Collison**, Emeritus Professor of Entomology and Emeritus Head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University, retired in June 2010. He writes a monthly column “A Closer Look” for Bee Culture, speaks at numerous beekeeping workshops in the eastern United States, and frequently judges honey shows. His book *What Do You Know?* was published in 2003.



**Dr. Larry Connor** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award given on behalf of the Michigan Beekeepers Association and the Heartland Apicultural Society for his work, “Mentoring the Next Generation of Queen Breeders” at this year’s Heartland Apicultural Society’s annual convention. A lifelong advocate of sustainable, practical and informed beekeeping practices, Dr. Connor continues to advise, educate and present on all subjects of beekeeping, including his acclaimed queen rearing workshops, regular articles authored for industry trade magazines and books that he continues to author and publish as senior partner at his publishing company, Wicwa Press, LLC.



**Steven Coy** is a second generation beekeeper with 17 years of experience as a commercial honey producer. He recently started the Coy Bee Company, LLC so that he can focus on producing Russian queens. His past experience in retail sales, agriculture research, and queen breeding have given him the skills necessary to produce and sell pure Russian queens. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Plant Science and a Master’s Degree in Biology, both from Arkansas State University. He is a charter member and current President of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association as well as an Executive Board member of the American Honey Producer’s Association. He is also the current Secretary/Treasurer for the Pollinator Stewardship Council.



**Dr. Bob Danka** is a Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA. He has worked on various aspects of the biology of Africanized honey bees, pollination biology of honey bees and the breeding for resistance to parasitic mites. He is probably best known for his work in producing bees that were resistant to tracheal mites because of enhanced self-grooming behavior. More recently, he has spearheaded efforts to selectively breed for Varroa resistance using VSH honey bees in commercial pollination and honey producing operations.



**Dr. Lilia I. de Guzman** is a Research Entomologist the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA. She has worked with parasitic mites and small hive beetles. She is probably best known for her work with small hive beetles and her investigations of Varroa resistance in ARS Russian honey bees. Currently, she is working to develop better measurements of Varroa mites in selective breeding programs.

## About Our Speakers



**Dr. Jeff Harris** is the extension-research apiculturist for Mississippi State University. He serves the beekeepers in the state with educational workshops and presentations about all aspects of bee biology. He also helps beekeepers in evaluating problems and diseases in their bees and offers advice on various management strategies for dealing with parasitic mites and small hive beetles. He also continues to breed and study the biology of VSH bees.



**Dr. Tom Rinderer** is the Research Leader for the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA. He has served in that role for over 40 years now! He directed the research at the lab through a couple of major concentrations during his career, and usually these studies were in response to threats to our U.S. beekeeping industry. In the mid-eighties the emphasis was on all aspects of the biology of Africanized honey bees. More recently, Tom is best known for various efforts to breed for resistance to Varroa mites. In particular, Tom created ARS Russian Honey Bees through years of excruciating selection for resistance to tracheal and Varroa mites, high honey production and low defense behavior.



**Michael Scheel**, one of our own, is a member of the MBA and a charter member of the Southwest Mississippi Beekeepers Association. Michael is employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a Rural Mail Carrier. With a degree from University of Southern Mississippi in Construction Engineering, Michael has complete knowledge of building systems and complex organizations. One of the skills Michael had to develop was observation with a purpose. This skill has helped to improve his beekeeping skills. Michael currently is a sideline beekeeper with a queen producing operation that produces a limited number of quality, Italian queens.



**Audrey Sheridan** is an Extension-Research Associate in the apiculture laboratory at Mississippi State University. She has worked there for over 10 years now, and she spent a good deal of time working for Dr. Clarence Collison before he retired. Audrey received her B.S. and M.S. from Oklahoma State University, both degrees in Entomology. Her research background is in honey bee proboscis extension behavior and small hive beetles, but she is developing into an expert on the biology of Varroa mites. She also maintains several pollinator gardens around our building and a large observation beehive for public educational programs.



**Virginia and Carl Webb** are full-time commercial beekeepers and queen producers. They manage more than 400 colonies of bees and a queen yard in the serene foothills of the Appalachians, an area known for being a good source of Sourwood Honey. They are charter members of the Russian Queen Breeders Association and are the only certified Russian Queen Breeders in Georgia. For more than forty years, they have championed the role of the honeybee in helping to sustain global agriculture and have helped to promote its diversified productivity, from nutritional products to health and beauty aids. Additionally, they have been awarded four gold medals at the World Honey Show for Best Honey in the World (2005 in Dublin, Ireland; 2009 in Montpellier, France; 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine; and 2015 in Daejeon, South Korea).