

Upper Peninsula Beekeeping Conference – March 30, 2024

Concurrent session descriptions (ordered by track and time of session)

Keynote	
This Will Be The Year!	Dr. Meghan Milbrath
Sometimes in beekeeping we get focused in on the little tips and techniques, and forget the big picture. In this talk, we take a look at the things that really matter for beekeeping in a northern climate.	
For All Beekeepers	
Hive Handling and Inspections	Dr. Adam Ingrao
Are you sick of getting stung while working your bees? It's likely that your hive handling has a lot to do with the number of stings you receive. In this session we will learn proper techniques for hive handling that will make inspections easier on you and your bees.	
Old-Timers Panel – Informal Q&A	Joel Lantz and Friends
Do you want to ask some bee questions and get a “semi” reasonable and practical response?? Ask the “Old-Timer” beekeepers. With over 150 years of accumulated bee “wisdom”, these folks just might have an answer...if they remember to show up! Joining Joel will Tom Nebel, Bernie Driggs, David Payant, Dave Wiitanen, Mike Connor, and honorary old-timer Isaac Behrens.	
Taking Varroa Seriously	Ana Heck
Hear about recent research on varroa mites, new perspectives of effective mite management, and data from Michigan State University colonies around the state.	
Drawn Comb is Gold!	Dr. Meghan Milbrath
Drawn comb makes all beekeeping easier! In this session we will discuss the conditions for getting comb drawn, how to optimize drawing comb, and how to store and protect drawn comb.	
Beginners' Track	
Should I Keep Bees?	Charlotte Hubbard
An overview of some of the demands of beekeeping – time, location, finances, physicality, equipment, and yes, emotions. Charlotte will also review starter info like basic equipment types and essentials, and the various options for obtaining bees.	
Basic Honey Bee Biology	Ana Heck
Learn about bee life stages, the roles of the queen, workers, and drones, and the colony as a superorganism. Understanding basic honey bee biology will help any beekeeper make beekeeping management decisions throughout the season. <i>(This talk is particularly good for new beekeepers.)</i>	
The Beekeeper's Year	Joel Lantz
All the basics about honey bees, their roles in the hive, and your role(s) as a beekeeper. A season-to-season look at what to expect and what you need to be doing.	
Start-up Equipment	Joel Lantz
Focused on start-up equipment and hive components, this will be a very casual, hands-on session. Get up, move around, and look at the hives, tools, suits, etc. There will be a variety of hive components and tools on hand.	

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Intermediate/Advanced Track	
Varroa Treatment Methods	David Payant
There are many options for treatment of Varroa mites. Wading through the options can be daunting. This session will review many of the options, their pros & cons, methods of application, as well as publications/resources available.	
Dealing with Deadouts	Dr. Meghan Milbrath
Dead outs are an unfortunate part of beekeeping. We will discuss how to clean up a deadout and how to make decisions on what to do with used equipment. We'll cover a mix of science (what we know about disease risk) and management (how do we deal with disease risk in the real world).	
Producing Quality Nucs: For Profit, Small Scale	Dr. Adam Ingrao
Nuc production is an important part of developing a sustainable local bee supply that does not rely on the importation of bees to replace annual losses. In this session, we will discuss the ins and outs of nuc production for beekeepers under 100 colonies. There will be a special focus on development, management, costs, quality control, time commitment, profit margins, and customer expectations.	
Planting Trees for Pollinators	Mike Connor
Trees are the single largest source of pollen and nectar for pollinators throughout most of the U.S. Bees need trees for spring build-up, for population growth, and for a honey crop. Yet, trees are often overlooked as nectar sources! This session will cover major tree and shrub species that are crucial to native and honey bees, as well as how to properly plant and care for those trees.	
For Everyone	
Native Pollinators: Native Bee Species and Native Pollinator Habitat Restoration	Ted Roper and Chelsey Attebery
An exciting addition to our conference topics! Though honey bees are what we keep in our hives, Michigan is also host to 450 species of native bees! Discover which native bees are common in the Central and Western U.P. Learn about these indigenous insects and discover how landscaping for pollinators can benefit our honey bees and local pollinators. Landscaping topics will include ideal pollinator habitat, restoration techniques, proper seed sources, beneficial pollinator plants and non-native vs. invasive species.	
Balms and Lotions	Michelle Landis
Michelle will share what she has learned about using products of the hive to create homemade items, such as lip balm and lotion. She'll discuss ways to make use of all that extra wax and demonstrate some of her methods.	
Youth Beekeeping and How to Start a Hive at a School	May Tsupros
In this session, participants will learn about the benefits and how to navigate the challenges of working with youth and bees. Participants will receive ideas for lessons and receive resources for starting a beehive with youth.	
New-Bee Mentoring	Charlotte Hubbard
This relationship is SO helpful to beekeeping success, if it is a successful relationship. This talk reviews some do's, and don't do's, for both parties.	