

# Speaker Bios, Bee College 2009

- 1. Virginia Webb** lives in Clarksville, GA. A former Tennessee honey queen, Virginia (and her husband Carl) manages <http://mtnhoney.com/>, where she sells “the world’s best honey” (International Honey Show, Apimondia 2005). Virginia knows everything there is to know about marketing honey and value-added products. Virginia is a board member of the American Beekeeping Federation.
- 2. Dr. Jamie Ellis** is Florida’s apiary extension specialist. He started the Bee College, the Florida Master Beekeeper Program, and the AFBEE program. Currently, Jamie oversees three graduate students and almost 20 research projects.
- 3. Dave Miksa** is a queen breeder in central Florida and is the owner/operator of Miksa Honey Farms. Dave produces Italian queens and is an expert on queen production in Florida.
- 4. Jerry Hayes** is the chief of the apiary section at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Widely acclaimed for his regular column in the American Bee Journal, Jerry travels the world teaching people about bees.
- 5. Dr. Michael Rogers** works for UF’s Citrus Research and Education Center. Michael specializes in citrus IPM and is working with citrus growers to control citrus greening and canker.
- 6. Dr. Amanda Ellis** is the Florida expert on honey bee pollination ecology. A homemaker now, Amanda once worked for FDACS, where she conducted research on varroa, wax moths, and honey bee nutrition.
- 7. Ray Zerba** is a horticulture agent in Clay County, Florida. He is a member of the UF Master Beekeeper Program Board. An expert in Florida horticulture, Ray has a passion for honey bees.
- 8. Dr. Glenn Hall** is UF’s honey bee geneticist. In the past, Glenn worked with African bees. Currently, he works with honey bee immunity to varroa as well as with native pollinators. Glenn is an expert in honey bee artificial insemination.
- 9. Doug McGinnis** is the owner of Tropical Blossom Honey Co. Inc., through which he sells honey produced in Florida. A leading proponent of the Florida Honey Standard, Doug is a great ambassador for Florida honey and has a wealth of knowledge on marketing honey.
- 10. David Barnes** is FDACS’s African honey bee expert. David, a state bee inspector for FDACS, heads the department’s African honey bee identification lab. Trained in USDA-ID and FABIS, David is the “go-to guy” on African bee identification.
- 11. Robert Brewer** is a Georgia county extension agent and decorated, world-class Welsh honey judge. Robert has judged honey shows throughout the Southeast and the United Kingdom. Robert also makes mead and will share his skills with us.
- 12. Dr. Keith Delaplane** is a professor of entomology at the University of Georgia. An Indiana native, Keith heads a team of U.S. researchers that was awarded a \$4.1 million grant to study colony collapse disorder. Keith is known internationally for his work in varroa IPM, pollination ecology, and honey bee husbandry.
- 13. Dr. Bill Kern** works at UF’s Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. As an urban entomologist, Bill specializes in African honey bee education. More specifically, Bill provides African bee training to pest control operators, first responders, outdoor workers, etc.
- 14. Dave Westervelt** is a biological scientist/bee inspector for FDACS. A Florida native, Dave is an expert on beekeeping in the Sunshine State. He has published a number of scientific and popular articles on bees and travels frequently to speak about bees.
- 15. Bert Kelley** is a beekeeper from Lakeland, Florida. He packages honey as well as sells beekeeping equipment. Bert is Treasurer of the Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA) and is the FSBA Beekeeper of the Year in 2007.
- 16. Carl Webb** resides in Clarksville, Georgia, with his wife, Virginia. A lifelong beekeeper, Carl is an advocate and breeder of Russian bees. Carl has cooperated with the University of Georgia in a number of research endeavors, and his honey was awarded the “best in the world” at the 2005 Apimondia World Congress.
- 17. Nancy Gentry** is a beekeeper living in Interlachen, Florida. Nancy is the primary promoter of the Florida Honey Standard. She has taken this effort to other states in the U.S., many of which are joining Nancy’s effort. She is involved heavily in the Florida State Beekeepers Association and Northeast Florida Beekeepers Association.