

2020 MSBA Annual Meeting

The 2020 MSBA Annual Meeting will be virtual this year!! Join us for a morning of presentations from nationally recognized speakers Jon Zawislak, Dr. Meghan Milbrath, and Mary Reisinger (2020 American Honey Queen). Jennifer Lund will present the State of the State update and the MSBA business meeting and elections will be held. There will also be a raffle!! Everyone who registers for the meeting will automatically be entered for a chance to win one of many prizes!

A little about virtual meetings: Virtual meetings are very easy to navigate. Prior to the meeting, you will be sent a link that can be used to enter the meeting. You will be able to attend from the comfort of your home and will be able to ask questions of the presenters. Several beekeeping clubs are planning watch "parties" (with proper masks and social distancing) so keep an eye out for an announcement from your local club if you would like to participate in this way.

The program is listed below and short stretch breaks will be interspersed throughout the program. Looking forward to seeing you on October 17th for an incredible program geared to both new and seasoned beekeepers!

MSBA ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

8:30 AM Welcome

8:35 AM **Jennifer Lund, Maine State Apiarist**
"State of the State Address"

9:00 AM **Jon Zawislak, University of Arkansas**
"Keeping Colonies Healthy and Productive"
Honey bee colony productivity and survivorship is linked to overall health. Learn about ways to reduce stress to colonies all year to keep your bees happy and healthy

10:10 AM **Mary Reisinger, 2020 American Honey Queen**
Join Mary Reisinger as she makes her favorite seasonal dish - pecan pie! With only a few ingredients, this pecan pie is easy to whip up in a hurry and sure to satisfy everyone. Mary will also spend some time discussing the unique promotional year that the American Honey Queen and Princess managed in 2020 and how they reached the public with messages of how honeybees are superheroes to agriculture and how honey has powerful purposes beyond the kitchen.

10:30 AM **Business Meeting**

11:00 AM **Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University**
"Sustainable Northern Beekeeping Using Late Season Nucs"
Never buy bees again! In this talk we cover a management strategy that can help beekeepers get off the treadmill of buying bees every year. We discuss how to make

replacement colonies and expansion from within your operation, so you can be self-sufficient.

Presenter Bios

Jon Zawislak, University of Arkansas

Jon is the apiculture specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He has worked and played with honey bees since 1998, and is equally at home in the bee yard, the laboratory or the classroom. Each year he presents lectures, workshops and short courses for new and experienced beekeepers throughout Arkansas and beyond. His teaching emphasizes the biology and behavior of bees as the cornerstones of keeping them productive and healthy. He also spreads the word about the importance of pollinators to the non-beekeeping public. Jon has a background in botany and entomology, and is a certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apicultural Society. He and his family operate Walnut Valley Honey Farm in Little Rock, AK (walnutvalleyhoney.com) producing products from the hive and supplying pollinators for area community gardens.

Mary Reisinger, 2020 American Honey Queen

Mary is the 20-year-old daughter of Peter and Stephanie Reisinger of Parker, TX. She is a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, studying speech-language pathology. Mary is an active volunteer in the Collin County Beekeepers Association and currently tends to six hives. As the 2020 American Honey Queen, Mary serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The American Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such Queen Mary will travel and present throughout the United States in 2020.

Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University

Meghan began working bees over 25 years ago, and now owns and manages The Sand Hill Apiary, a small livestock and queen rearing operation in Munith, Michigan. She studied biology at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and received degrees in public health from Tulane University and the University of Michigan, where she focused on environmental health sciences and disease transmission risk. Meghan worked as a postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University, studying nosema disease, and is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at MSU, where she does honey bee and pollinator research and extension. She is also the coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative. Meghan is active in multiple beekeeping organizations, writes for numerous beekeeping journals, and speaks about bees all over the country. She currently runs the Northern Bee Network, a directory and resource site dedicated to supporting queen producers. She is passionate about keeping and promoting healthy bees.

Jennifer Lund, Maine State Apiarist

Jen earned a master's degree in entomology from the University of Maine in Orono and has almost 20 years of entomological experience. Before becoming the State Apiarist, she was a research technician in the entomology department at UMO. Jen is passionate about honey bee health and helping beekeepers succeed. In addition to managing the

inspection program, she has several hives of her own on her farm in Argyle Township.