

Nominees for 2020-21 MSBA Board of Directors



President: Judith Stanton

Judith is currently vice president of MSBA, serving previously as a chapter representative and at large director, as well as secretary and VP for Sagadahoc County Beekeepers. Having attended many EAS conferences, she was a member of the core committee for the 2020 event at UMO. Judith's been keeping bees for 16 years and sells "Harpswell Honey" through local shops. An active mentor and troubleshooter to other Harpswell beekeepers, she also does frequent honey bee presentations for children in schools and summer programs. She is retired from a career in advertising and graphic design, and is director of the Harpswell Community Garden.



Vice President: Jane Dunstan

Jane became intrigued with honey bees during a renovation project in her 1778 farmhouse in 2009. After removing a colony of bees from her bathroom wall, she rectified the loss with the purchase of two packages the following spring. In addition to keeping 24 colonies, raising her own queens, harvesting honey, making candles, soap, hand cream and lip gloss using products of the hive, Jane has been a mentor to new beekeepers, promoting stewardship and education. When not caring for her 10 geriatric llamas, 8 cats, and 26 chickens, Jane works as both an emergency and hospice nurse. In any spare moments, she enjoys kayaking, quilting, making floor cloths and knitting. Jane is the current director of KLCB Bee School. In addition to teaching beginner and intermediate classes, she is the editor of the KLCB quarterly newsletter The Buzz Word. She is currently MSBA secretary and editor of MSBA's newsletter The Bee Line.



Treasurer: Keith Kettelhut

Keith is the current president of Cumberland County Beekeepers Association and was named MSBA's 2017 Beekeeper of the Year. A resident of Durham, he has been keeping bees for twelve years and runs 55 hives. Keith is an active member of the Swarm Team, and has been very involved with education and outreach with regard to honey bees and other flying insects. He is a satellite communications engineer working for WMTW TV-8, operating and maintaining their satellite truck. Keith is also a scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 109 in Lisbon Falls.



Secretary: Thalassa Raasch

Thalassa became involved with honey bees as a teenaged apprentice to a commercial beekeeper in Minnesota. With several hundred colonies to manage, every fair-weather day was spent tending hives. After settling in Maine Thalassa embarked on her own bee endeavor, which has grown to 20+ colonies. She now operates "Keepers," a business which provides bee hive tours, live colony removals and hive management services. She maintains colonies on the rooftop of the Press Hotel/Union Restaurant in Portland, at the Blaine House governor's residence in Augusta, and for private individuals in various locations. Her personal apiaries produce her "Little Dude" honey. Thalassa teaches darkroom photography at Colby College. Her work as an artist and as a visual storyteller has allowed her to explore all sixteen counties in Maine. This past year she presented "Rooftop Beekeeping" at the B-Side storytelling event, and talks and workshops at York and Cumberland County Beekeepers meetings, Maine Audubon and Frith Farm.



Membership Chairperson: Sheri Zimmerman

Sheri was born and raised in Oklahoma and earned a degree in Animal Sciences from Texas A&M University. Currently living in Winthrop, she moved to Maine 25 years ago and works as a Veterinary Technician. During her five years of beekeeping she has become very active in Kennebec Beekeepers Association, serving as secretary, mentoring four new beekeepers and conducting open hive classes at Viles Arboretum. Sheri has also implemented a 4-H scholarship through KBA, which provides students with the instruction, skills and equipment to start their own hives. She will further her educational contributions in KBA's 2021 Bee School, covering honey harvesting, extracting, bottling, and grading.



At-Large Director: David LeGloahec

David is an urban bee keeper in Gardiner, where he has lived for almost five years. He helped write the city's new beekeeping ordinance, which allows anyone to have honey bees anywhere in the municipality, dependent on lot size. A retired educator from Lewiston, he's an active member of both Kennebec Beekeepers Association and Knox-Lincoln County Beekeepers. He is currently the treasurer for KBA and up for re-election as an MSBA at large director. David became interested in bees through a class taught at Gardiner Adult Ed "So You Want Become a Beekeeper," and each year tries to learn some new aspects of beekeeping, the most recent being management of resource hives.



At Large Director: Geoff MacLean

Geoff started keeping bees in 2007 as a favor for a real estate brokerage client looking for a home for two colonies. That beekeeper quickly faded away and Geoff, with help from “Beekeeping for Dummies”, splits and nucs, ended up with 10 colonies by the end of his first year. Today, in addition to 3+ decades of real estate brokerage, training and consulting as a founding partner of The Real Estate Learning Group, and running several charter boats in Casco Bay, he keeps 20+ colonies and sells honey under the Red Brook Honey label from an honor stand at his bee farm in Scarborough. Realizing the benefit of networking with fellow beekeepers, Geoff became involved in Cumberland County Beekeepers and MSBA a dozen years ago. He has taught a sustainable beekeeping course for seven years at The Honey Exchange in Portland, is a past vice president of CCBA and a current EAS Master Beekeeper candidate. He routinely gives talks to local clubs, groups, and schools in an effort to further public understanding of the honey bee.