

MSBA Webinar Series #6

“Winter Bees, Heater Bees and Winter Survival” with Jane Dunstan

October 27th, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Winter bees ROCK! Join Jane Dunstan for an intriguing webinar that will not only examine what makes winter bees different from their spring and summer sisters, but why they are considered the life line to a healthy spring colony. For those of you who have never heard of heater bees, you won't want to miss the opportunity to learn about these select bees who manage to increase their body temperature to 111° in order to warm adjacent cells – and why this is such an important function for the entire cluster. Lastly we will examine what our role and responsibility is to work cooperatively with a species that has made all the necessary adaptations to overwinter successfully.

The webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out in advance, and another link provided after the presentation to a recorded version.



Jane Dunstan lives in Newcastle and owns and operates Ridge Mist Llamas, home to nine remaining geriatric llamas from a herd of 50. In addition to a flock of chickens, she oversees about 25 hives and regularly mentors new beekeepers. Jane is the Bee School director for Knox Lincoln County Beekeepers and regularly teaches beginner and intermediate classes. Ridge Mist has been the locale for the popular Fire Side Chats, informal gatherings of beekeepers which are held during winter months as a way for beekeepers to stay connected and continue learning and talking about bees.

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MSBA Webinar Series #5

"Tips and Tricks of Honey Harvesting" with Rick Cooper

Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 pm

This webinar will include video demonstrations of various techniques for removal of honey from hives, extracting and bottling. It will be followed by a power point summary and Q&A with Rick and others.

This webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out in advance. For those who cannot attend on this date, a recorded version will be made available for viewing with another emailed access link.



Rick Cooper began beekeeping in 1980 to help pollinate his home garden in Bowdoinham, while working as a computer programmer and systems analyst at the Brunswick Naval Air Station. He later started up a sideline business, "Bees-and-Me," running 100+ hives and selling beekeeping equipment and supplies.

Over the years Rick has been a popular guest speaker at chapter meetings across the state and has taught short courses at EAS conferences. He's contributed countless articles to The Bee Line newsletter and educated many people in his annual winter bee schools. He became Maine's first Eastern Apicultural Society-certified Master

Beekeeper in 1994, and presided over the 2003 EAS conference held at Bowdoin College. Rick has served in almost every position on MSBA's Board of Directors, was named Beekeeper of the Year, and also became a recipient of MSBA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. A member of the Sagadahoc County Beekeepers Association, Rick is the guy everyone wants to sit next to at the club's (pre-covid) Saturday Bee Breakfasts.

MSBA Webinar Series #4

“What You Should Be Doing Now: Summer/Fall Edition” with Jennifer Lund

Maine State Apiarist and Bee Inspector

August 6th, 2020 at 7:00 pm

It's time to start preparing your bees for successful overwintering! Maine State Apiarist Jen will talk about hive management issues in late summer, including how to combine weak hives, mitigate robbing, determine whether your bees have enough winter stores, deal with mites, and much more. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

This webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out a few days in advance. For those who cannot attend on this date, a recorded version will be available for viewing with another access link.



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 the UMO. While at the University, Jen worked on several honey bee research projects including a national colony collapse disorder study, honey bee colony health comparisons of top bar and Langstroth hives, integrated varroa mite control effectiveness, the role of honey bees as vectors of blueberry disease, sublethal effects on colonies to low level pesticide exposure, and health of migratory hives arriving in Maine for pollination. Jen is passionate about honey bee health and helping beekeepers succeed.

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MSBA Webinar Series #3

“Making Splits for Overwintering” with Erin Forbes

June 15th, 2020 at 11:00 am

Our presenter Erin Forbes will discuss and demonstrate sustainable beekeeping practices through the use and management of nucleus colonies, with a focus on creating nucs for overwintering. The webinar will be filmed live from the apiary at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, with a Q&A session following the presentation.

The webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out in advance, and another link provided after the presentation to a recorded version. Rain date: June 19th at 11:00 am.



Erin is a Master Beekeeper, past president of MSBA and chairman emeritus of Eastern Apicultural Society. She works at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and is also co-owner of Overland Apiaries. A popular lecturer at major beekeeping conferences and organizations across the country, Erin has been featured in Maine Women magazine, the Portland Press Herald, Huffington Post, and other media outlets. A popular lecturer at major beekeeping conferences and organizations across the country, Erin has been featured in Maine Women magazine, the Portland Press Herald, Huffington Post, and other media outlets.

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MSBA Webinar Series #2

“What You Should Be Doing Now: Spring Edition” with Jennifer Lund

Maine State Apiarist and Bee Inspector

March 26th, 2020 at 7:00 pm

The second in the MSBA 2020 Webinar Series, Jen Lund gives a timely talk on spring colony management, including what to do with dead-out hives, how to start new colonies, and what to look for during your first overwintered hive inspections.

The webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out in advance, and another link provided after the presentation to a recorded version. Rain date: June 19th at 11:00 am.



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MSBA Webinar Series #1

“EAS Honey Show Primer” with Brutz English

February 17th, 2020 at 7:00 pm

With Eastern Apicultural Society's Conference at the University of Maine just around the corner, this webinar will cover the basics about honey shows, including a little history, their benefits and value to us as beekeepers. There will also be a detailed examination of the EAS Honey Show rules and exhibition categories. Our presenter Brutz English will discuss the following subjects in detail:

- the general rules of most honey shows and things you need to pay attention to early on
- the 2020 EAS Honey Show rules
- what the honey show judges are looking for
- the tools you are going to need to be competitive
- preparing your honey show exhibits

There will be a Q&A session following the presentation.

The webinar is open to MSBA members only. No registration is required; an email containing the link will be sent out in advance, and another link provided after the presentation to a recorded version.



Brutz English has been keeping bees for 12 years and has been a licensed commercial honey packer for eight years. He is a University of Georgia Master Beekeeper, an internationally certified honey judge, and the Program Director of the Welsh Honey Judge Training Program at the Young Harris-UGA Beekeeping Institute.