

2021 Annual General Meeting – Speaker Bios

Paul Kozak, Provincial Apiarist, OMAFRA:

Paul Kozak is the Provincial Apiarist for Ontario, based in Guelph, Ontario with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs since 2010. This role includes regulation of the beekeeping industry in Ontario, working closely with provincial Apiary Inspectors, reporting on the status of the industry, providing technical and strategic advisory to government and industry regarding apiculture and collaborating with other specialists in apiculture on programs. Paul holds a BSc in Zoology and an MSc in Entomology, both the University of Manitoba. For graduate work, Paul worked under the guidance of Dr. Rob Currie researching the winter biology of honey bees and varroa mites and various management strategies for varroa. Before moving to Ontario, Paul worked as the Associate Extension Apiculturist through the Dyce Lab for honey bee studies, Cornell University and New York State Integrated Pest Management.



CFIA, Health Canada: Christine Shaker-CFIA/Marcia Leblanc-Health Canada

Christine Shaker joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in June 2001. She worked on a variety of different files in her time at the Agency, including the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations. Christine is currently in the Industry Relations section, working with national industry associations from various food sectors, including honey.

Marcia LeBlanc is a registered dietitian and a graduate of McGill University's School of Human Nutrition. She began her career with the Consumer Protection Branch of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Since 2005, she has worked at the Health Products and Food Branch of Health Canada, in the Nutrition Regulations and Standards Division, focussing on matters related to nutrition labelling.

Anthony Nearman, University of Maryland:

After completing a BA in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Maryland in 2014, Anthony first joined the vanEngelsdorp Bee Lab as a lab and field technician for Bee Informed Partnership. Over the next two years, he discovered a love for bees and beekeeping and decided to pursue a PhD. Anthony's primary research focus is honey bee pathophysiology and its relationship to colony loss. He is currently developing statistical models that predict colony mortality using pathology and other measures of bee health





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Dan Borges, Specialist, OBA TTP:



Dan Borges received a bachelor's degree in Biology from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto. His passion for insects and entomology led him to the University of Guelph, where he completed a master's degree under the supervision of Dr. Ernesto Guzman. His master's work focused on the treatment of *Nosema ceranae* using natural compounds and probiotics. Dan also teaches at Niagara College, disseminating knowledge about bee biology and entomology. Dan is from the Tri-Cities area and currently lives in Kitchener. He runs a small bee operation, selling honey and nucs.

Backed By Bees:



DAVID STOTESBURY



VINCENT SOWA

Vincent and Dave are co-founders of Backed By Bees - a Burlington based beekeeping operation and meadery that was founded in 2018. Dave got his start in the beekeeping world at the University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre in 2012 under the guide of Paul Kelly and Dr. Ernesto Guzman. He worked in a variety of beekeeping operations including a bee breeding operation in New Zealand before coming back and starting his own beekeeping operation. It was later at a beekeeping course that Dave and Vincent met. Vincent had been a long time home brewer who had a keen interest in the mead brewing world. The pair came together and now focus on the production of craft meads and keeping their 500 bee colonies happy, healthy and productive.



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Colette Mesher, OBA TTP Lead:

Colette Mesher completed a BSc at the University of Guelph, an MSc at Rhodes University in South Africa and a PhD at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. Colette has been actively involved in the beekeeping industry, as a hobby beekeeper, working for commercial beekeepers, working at Apihex, teaching workshops, as an OBA board member and as a member of the OBA. Colette runs a small beekeeping business – Miel Rebel Honey. From the moment that Colette first handled a frame of bees, she was hooked. Cutting her teeth learning how to prepare colonies for pollination, honey production, nucleus colony production and queen rearing before starting her own company.



Carleen Ginter, OT Reg:

Carleen Ginter is the co-owner and beekeeper for The Bees Knees Apiary in Ajax, Ontario. She is also an Occupational Therapist and Movement Therapist treating clients at Toronto Movement Therapy (TMT) in person in Toronto, and virtually with clients all over the world. As a rehab professional, and passionate beekeeper, she will be sharing some useful strategies on injury prevention, energy conservation, and activity modification specifically for beekeepers. She hopes to bring light to the topic of beekeeper wellness through discussions about sustainable practices and provide education about off-season physical conditioning.

BONUS: Carleen will lead a movement session at the end of the meeting on the 20th. Stay logged on to participate!





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Dr. Jennifer L. Bonnell, Associate Professor, York University:



Jennifer Bonnell teaches Canadian and environmental history at York University. She is the author of [*Reclaiming the Don: An Environmental History of Toronto's Don River Valley*](#) (University of Toronto Press, 2014). She is currently working on a new book, *Foragers of a Modern Countryside: Honey Bees, Agricultural Modernization and Environmental Change in the Great Lakes Region*.

Dr. Bonnell examines the debates that surrounded incidents of honey bee poisoning in the southern Great Lakes Region in the 1880s and 90s and documents the efforts of beekeepers to press for prudent insecticide use and “bee-friendly” horticultural practices more than half a century before the more familiar insecticide controversies of the post-war period. The intersections between beekeepers, honey bees, and the changing environments they worked within presents an early example of the effects of agricultural industrialization on minority producers and the animals they kept.

Dr. Juliana Rangel, Associate Professor of Apiculture, Texas A&M University

Born in Colombia, South America, Juliana obtained a B.S. in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution in 2004 from the University of California, San Diego. In 2010 she obtained a Ph.D. in Neurobiology and Behavior from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, working with Dr. Tom Seeley. She was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow from 2010 to 2013 working with Dr. David Tarpy at North Carolina State University. In January 2013, Juliana became Assistant Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, TX. She was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2018.

Her research program focuses on the biological and environmental factors that affect the reproductive quality of honey bee queens and drones, the behavioral ecology and population genetics of unmanaged honey bees, and the quality and diversity of honey bee nutrition. Since 2014 she has been the coach of TAMU's undergraduate and graduate teams of the Entomology Games at the branch and national games of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), earning first and second place nationally three years in a row. She received the 2021 James I. Hambleton Memorial Award, which was established by the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America to recognize research excellence in apiculture. She was 2014 President and 2013 Vice-President of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists.

