



ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Since 1881

## 2021 Spring Meeting – Speaker Bios

### Graeme Foers, OBBA President:

Graeme graduated from Georgian college with an advertising diploma and then worked for a National agency in Toronto. There he worked on the brand advertising for Lexus Canada, until he realized that he liked making maple syrup more than dealing with car dealerships, so he quit his job to expand the maple syrup business. Graeme then got into beekeeping, first as a hobby but then turning it into a business. He has been keeping bees for nine years and mainly focuses on honey production but is developing his queen production side.



### Darlene Myers-Savard



Darlene Myers-Savard, Beekeeper and Bee U Facilitator for the Women Warriors Healing Garden (WWHG). WWHG is a non-profit organization that offers peer support, therapeutic programming and safe spaces for Canadian and allied military women who are currently serving and veteran women dealing with post-traumatic stress disorders.

Currently, I am in my 4<sup>rd</sup> year of operating, and assisting other beekeepers with, approximately 20 hives at 2 apiaries and mentoring several new beekeepers. Having worked in administrative healthcare for over 25 years, I retired to have time to assist with multiple family medical issues and it was during that time that I fell in love with honeybees and the emotional healing they can offer just by bee-ing in the yard.

### Les Eccles, Eccles Apiaries:

Les Eccles is the former Tech-Transfer Program Lead. He has both a Diploma in Agriculture and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Guelph. Les first developed his interest in beekeeping at the UoG Apiculture Research Centre with Paul Kelly and Ernesto Guzman but now co-operates his commercial beekeeping business with his wife, Raquel. His special interest is in honey bee breeding.





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## **Georges Martin, CRSAD:**



Georges Martin is a biologist with 15 years of experience in beekeeping research. He is currently the project manager at the Deschambault Animal Science Research Centre in Quebec. He works mainly on pollination, nutrition and selection of bees. Georges was heavily involved in the success of Apimondia in Montreal.

## **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.



## **David Tarpy, Professor and Extension Apiculturist, North Carolina State University:**



David Tarpy is a Professor of Entomology and the Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University since 2003. As Extension Apiculturist, he maintains an apiculture website dedicated to the dissemination of information and understanding of honey bees and their management, spearheads numerous extension projects and launched the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System (BEES) - an exciting online learning resource for knowledge and understanding of bees and beekeeping. His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens in order to better improve the overall health of queens and their colonies. Specific research projects include understanding the effect of multiple mating on colony disease resistance, using molecular methods to determine the genetic structure within honey bee colonies, and the determining the regulation of reproduction at the individual and colony levels. His work has provided some of the best empirical evidence that multiple mating by queens confers multiple and significant benefits to colonies through increased genetic diversity of their nestmates, particularly through increased tolerance to numerous diseases. More recently, his lab group has focused on the reproductive potential of commercially produced queens, testing their genetic diversity and mating success in an effort to improve queen quality.



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## **Jamie Ellis, University of Florida:**

Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Georgia (USA) and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida, Jamie has responsibilities in Extension, instruction, and research. Regarding his Extension work, Jamie created the UF/IFAS Bee College and the UF/IFAS Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Jamie supervises PhD and masters students. Currently, Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination.



## **Paul Kelly, University of Guelph:**



Paul has managed the University of Guelph, Honey Bee Research Centre since 1987 as lead apiarist. His primary role at the centre is to care for honeybee colonies used in research projects and for teaching purposes. Paul provides training for students and beekeepers, conducts facility tours for the general public and generally won't stop talking about bees. His beekeeping career started with a grade six science project and led to working with bees in Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Zealand before settling down in Ontario. Paul graduated from the University of Guelph with a BSC Agriculture, Environmental Biology major.

## **Amro Zayed, York University:**

Amro Zayed is an Associate Professor of Biology and York University's Research Chair in Genomics. He completed his doctorate in Biology (PhD 2006) at York University, then held a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Illinois' Department of Entomology. Dr. Zayed later served as a Fellow for the Institute for Genomic Biology's Genomics of Neural & Behavioral Plasticity Theme at the University of Illinois. Dr. Zayed leads a research program on the genetics, genomics and behaviour of social insects using the honey bee as a model organism.





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## **Sarah Wood, University of Saskatchewan**



Sarah is a veterinary pathologist with Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc. in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Her research interests include ecotoxicology and infectious disease of honey bees.

## **Nuria Morfin, University of Guelph:**

Nuria Morfin is a Research Associate with the Honeybee Research Centre at the University of Guelph. Her studies are focused on the effect of stressors on honeybee social behaviors and brain lipidome. She also studies host-pathogen interactions, the genetics behind social immunity, and the metabolome of honeybees. Her studies will help understand the changes that bees undergo as they grow old, and differences in their metabolome depending on the time of the year.

