

## 2022 Annual General Meeting – Speaker Bios

### **Kelsey Ducsharm, Specialist, OBA TTP, OAHN**

Kelsey Ducsharm has been with OBA TTP since 2015. She began as a summer student while attending school at the University of Guelph. After completing her Environmental Science degree, she decided to continue working with honey bees full time. And because that wasn't quite enough bees for her, she now keeps a few hives of her own in her spare time as well. Kelsey is known as "the muscle" around the office and plays a big role in maintaining the breeding program.



### **Dr. 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.

### **Glenys Robinson, Specialist, OBA TTP:**

Glenys Robinson, like many others, fell in love with bees while doing her undergrad at the University of Guelph, where she studied International Development (specializing in rural and agricultural development). After graduating, she decided to dive into beekeeping head first, and took the Commercial Beekeeping program at Niagara College. In addition to bees, Glenys is interested in plants and fungi, and likes to play around in the kitchen with canning and fermenting.



## **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.

## **Stephen Moore, OBA Board Director**

Steve has been keeping bees for 12+ years. In 2019 his family moved back to the farm he grew up on near Peterborough. Fleetwood Hills Farm is focused on maple syrup, garlic, and honey production. Before taking over the family farm Steve worked in vaccine research at the University of Oxford, spent several years doing humanitarian work in South Sudan, managed the team at Public Health Ontario that was responsible for enteric, zoonotic, and vector borne diseases, and worked for an Indigenous governed health information partnership in Northern Ontario.



## **John Van Alten, CHC Representative:**



Based in Carlisle, Ontario, John's been producing honey for over 35 years. His honey products are available in stores across Ontario.

## **Dr. Ernesto Guzman, University of Guelph**



Ernesto Guzman was born and raised in Mexico, where he started to keep bees when he was 17. His interest in bee biology and beekeeping further developed when he became an assistant for an introductory apiculture course at the National University of Mexico. Eventually, Ernesto kept more than 300 colonies and produced over 10 tons of honey a year. He got a degree in Veterinary Medicine and obtained M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Entomology from the University of California. After getting his PhD, he conducted research on behaviour and genetics of Africanized honey bees and on their resistance to parasitic mites for 12 years. Then, he accepted a position at the University of Guelph where he has worked for more than 18 years on causes of honey bee mortality. Dr. Guzman has received numerous honors and awards and is recognized as a world authority in honey bee breeding and parasitic diseases of honey bees.

## **Paul Kelly, Research and Apiary Manager, UoG Honey Bee Research Centre**

Paul has managed the Honey Bee Research Centre for the past thirty-five years. His primary role at the centre is to manage honeybee colonies for research and teaching purposes. He provides research support for hive health science, training for students and beekeepers, coordinates and teaches beekeeping courses, conducts facility tours for the general public and hasn't stopped talking about bees since taking his first apiculture course in 1980! His interests include bee breeding, beekeeping tool design and manufacture, beekeeping video production, medicinal use of hive products, and hive management techniques. Paul received the Eastern Apiculture Society Teaching Award in 2017 and was inducted into the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2022.





**Limestone Beekeepers Guild – Alexandra Pedersen, Nancy Cole  
Wintergreen Studios - Monica Capovilla**



The Limestone Beekeepers Guild is an organization that provides the space and opportunity for local beekeepers and bee enthusiasts to share ideas, knowledge, and experiences while having a good time.

Wintergreen Studios is a not-for-profit registered charity, incorporated in 2007. They provide retreat and meeting facilities for individuals and groups, such as families interested in a wilderness weekend retreat. Wintergreen also hosts weddings. Our lodge, cabins and land are in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve in Southeastern Ontario. The lodge was built in the summer and fall of 2008 and the first workshops were offered in the fall of 2008. Wintergreen inspired the development of a community-based renewable energy initiative and is home to Wintergreen Studios Press.

**Maggie Shanahan, PhD candidate, University of Minnesota**

Maggie is a beekeeper, researcher, and parent currently based in Chiapas, Mexico, where she works with her extended family to manage a variety of bee- and tree-related farming projects. She is also a (virtual) PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota, where she studies the strategies that honey bees and stingless bees use to keep their colonies healthy, and the agricultural systems that impact bee health. Maggie's most recent project involves surfacing conversations both within and beyond the bee research community around the ways in which research narratives normalize and perpetuate the industrialization of agriculture systems, to the detriment of pollinator communities. In this work, she has been inspired to see open conversations creating avenues for change.





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### **Kevin Mar, Blue Planet Design, Toronto**

Kevin is a graduate of the BFA program, specializing in Graphic and Industrial Design at the University of Alberta in 1985.

Prior to starting Blue Planet Design Inc. in 1994, Kevin was the Senior Design manager at Ove Design in Toronto from 1985-1994, where he worked on projects from Bank of Montreal, Canadian Airlines and Delta Hotels.

### **Etienne Tardif, Yukon Honey Bees**

Etienne has a mechanical engineering background. He now lives in the Yukon Territory and has kept bees for 12 years in northern cold climates. He takes a very data driven approach to keeping his bees. He has collected data to understand the annual bee cycle, mapped out the bloom calendar along with the nectar and pollen flows. He loves everything to do with bees/native pollinators and continuously seeks to expand northern best practice beekeeping. His current focus is winter thermoregulation, bee nutrition and bee health. In 2021, he received CAP funding to conduct a Yukon honey origins projects to better understand Yukon/Boreal/Subarctic nectar sources (pollen analysis) as well as the local honey chemical characteristics (NMR).



### **Ron St Louis, Capital Bees**



Ron currently keeps about 25-50 hives right in the Ottawa Greenbelt at the Just Food Farm in Blackburn Hamlet. The bees forage on an abundance of wildflowers and flowering trees, and help pollinate the delicious organic veggies of the farm neighbours.

Ron's operation is Certified Naturally Grown, which means they practice natural (non-certified) organic beekeeping. They do not use antibiotics or synthetic chemicals, and practice responsible beekeeping through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and bees bred for resistance to pests and diseases.