

2024 OBA Spring Meeting – Speaker Bios

Graeme Foers, Lost Meadows Apiaries

Graeme Foers is the current Chair of the Ontario Bee Breeders Association (OBBA) and a member of the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection (ORHBS) Program. Graeme has been keeping bees for 12 years and now has a commercial operation under the name Lost Meadows Apiaries. Along with honey, Graeme also sells queens and nucs he produces, and opened a Meadery under the name Lost Meadows Meadery with his sister. Graeme is passionate about queen bee breeding, focusing on breeding disease and mite resistant queen bees. Graeme also comes from an advertising background and strives to help the bee industry flourish.



Panel Discussion, ORHBS Breeders: Shipping Stock



Kelly Rogers, Semi-Retired Queen Producer

Kelly started keeping bees with a couple of hives in the early 1980s while a student at U of G. She learned the trade working for a commercial beekeeper in Peace River, Alberta and all about queen rearing at Fairview College's Commercial Beekeeper program. She co-owned and operated Chatsworth Honey for 33 years, managing 700-900 hives for apple pollination, queen & nuc sales, and honey production. She joined the Ontario breeding program at its inception in 1992. Although retired from commercial beekeeping, Kelly has continued to dabble in queen and nuc production with her goal (ever elusive) of becoming a true hobby beekeeper at some point in the future.



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.



Dr. Nuria Morfin, BC TTP Lead



Nuria Morfin, is the Technology Transfer Program Lead in British Columbia. She has been working with honey bees for fifteen years as an extensionist, beekeeper, and researcher. Nuria got her PhD from the University of Guelph – Honey Bee Research Centre, where she later worked as a researcher studying the impact of stressors on health and behaviour, analyzing the mechanisms behind behavioural immunity. Nuria also worked as a Bee Inspector for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Throughout her career, she has been actively contributing to apicultural research and the beekeeping industry.

Alvaro De la Mora, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Guelph

Alvaro is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Honey Bee Research Centre (HBRC), University of Guelph, and he has a M.Sc. degree in Animal Production where he studied *Nosema ceranae*. He has nearly 16 years of international experience in honey bee management and research. He has experience in apiculture, outreach, lab techniques, diagnosis of honey bee diseases, and production of hive products. He has taught courses in apiculture and trained producers and students. He has participated in different research projects; thus, he is author or coauthor of 12 scientific publications. His graduate project involves selecting honey bee populations for lower rates of Varroa population growth (LVG). This project has received several awards including the EAS Student Award 2022, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Honey Bee Health Improvement Project Grant 2022, and the CAPA (Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists) Student merit award at the PhD level 2021. Also, the methodology used for selecting bees for LVG became included as part of the Ontario Resistant Honey Bee Selection Program (ORHBS).



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.

Grace McKinney, University of Guelph:

Grace McKinney (she/her) is a PhD student at the University of Guelph School of Environmental Sciences. Under the supervision of Dr. Nigel Raine and guidance of Dr. Susan Chan, Grace is working to validate an indoor nucleus colony overwintering facility designed by beekeeper Jerry Jerrard (Kawartha Lakes Honey).

Grace has a background in Biology and Cultural Anthropology, and is passionate about interdisciplinary, real-world research. She particularly loves working with honeybees and learning from beekeepers.



Jeff Bertholet, Greenlight Bioscience



October 2023, I joined Greenlight Bioscience as a Development and Technical Service Consultant. One of the main purposes of the role is to work with our research partners to advance the development projects targeted at the Canadian market.

I received both my BSc in Agriculture and MSc in Weed Science/Agronomy from the University of Manitoba. I have more than 40 years of agricultural industry experience in both eastern and western Canada. I have worked most of my career with BASF Canada and held positions in Field Research, & Planning and Marketing.

Dr. Medhat Nasr, Saskatchewan Bee Tech Adoption Program Lead



Medhat has spent decades developing alternatives for mite control (formic acid, Oxalic Acid, HopGuard2 and Apivar®), managing miticide resistance, evaluating integrated pest management (IPM) programs, and breeding quality bees. Medhat was the president of CAPA from 2014-2018. He is a member of the Varroa Resistance and Treatment Team (VRTT) of the Honey Bee Health Coalition-USA. He received numerous awards for his contributions to apiculture in Canada and USA. Medhat earned his B. Sc. and M. Sc. (Entomology) from Cairo University, Egypt. He earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from University of California, Davis, US.

Nadine Rochette, The Bee Spot

The Bee Spot is a family-run business located in Tamworth. Nadine started beekeeping almost 10 years ago, and slowly transitioned it into a business. 25 acres of native and non-invasive perennials flowers were planted to create a perfect environment for the bees. By starting out with honey and candles at local markets, their passion for sharing knowledge about bee health and more was ignited. In 2018, farm tours (bee experiences) were a natural addition to the journey. The AirBnB platform was a perfect fit for travellers and to drive interest to bees, as well as learning about pollinator health. A farmgate expansion was put into place in 2023 by retrofitting a barn, adding bee equipment supply services and a classroom for courses. Nucs are now offered in early spring then queens and full hives later in the year.

