

2016 Texas Beekeepers Association Conference Speakers

Mike Palmer – Owner, French Hill Apiaries in St. Albans, Vermont with wife Lesley. As a boy Mike spent most of his time outdoors fascinated by nature and insects; putting that fascination into play in 1974 with his first colony of bees. After many years of keeping nearly 1000 colonies a hard lesson came with the invasion of the Varroa mite resulting in a completely frustrated beekeeper. In 1998 he began raising queens and overwintering them in nucleus colonies with huge success. With that success, Mike changed his business focus to quality over quantity and has averaged some twelve hundred queens and thirty to forty tons of honey annually. When not helping his crew manage the colonies, Mike travels the world teaching sustainable beekeeping to anyone who will listen.



Megan Mahoney currently works with commercial beekeepers based in Texas as part of the Bee Informed Partnership run through Texas A&M University. She travels around Texas and to North and South Dakota following beehives to take samples for pests, diseases, and viruses. She has also worked with commercial queen producers in California, as well as migratory honey producers/in the Midwest for the past 5 years or so. Megan misses having her own bees and raising her own queens in her home state of New Mexico, but loves the opportunity to meet bees and their keepers all over the US.

Eddie Collins – M.S. Computer Science - 1/2 Beekeeper - 1/2 IT Director at Brookshire Grocery Co. Past TBA Director, past ETBA president. Currently vice president of his local home club the ETBA and writes a column titled “Bee Stuff” for their monthly newsletter. Eddie is a 3rd generation beekeeper who in his spare times works for a migratory beekeeper. (Or maybe in his spare time works for Brookshire Grocery Co.) He grew up “hating” bees then 18 years ago fell in “love” with them and now can’t get enough. Currently maintains approximately 400 colonies under the label of CNC Honey Farms located in Whitehouse, TX.



Lance Wilson is a certified Master Beekeeper from the University of Georgia and Young Harris College. He manages hives in Travis and Williamson County. He is President of the Austin Area Beekeepers Association. He has presented lectures on honey bee biology, management, behavior, nutrition, Africanized honey bees and Varroa and brood disease management to The Texas Beekeepers Association’s annual convention and clinic, The North American Beekeeping Conference, Georgia Master Beekeeping Institute and at local beekeeping clubs in Texas. Lance serves on the Texas Master Beekeeping Program Board and is an Area Director for Texas Beekeepers Association.

