

Speaker Biographies

John Antenucci

John has had careers as an engineer, regional planner and international management consultant. He became a beekeeper some 35 years ago when someone presented him with a colony of bees as a housewarming gift. Starting with that single colony, John developed a fascination with the bees – and envied the organizational structure of the colony – something as a management consultant he wished the institutions he was working with would embrace.

John was a beekeeping hobbyist, learning, failing, and succeeding with the assistance of other beekeepers and notably, Tom Webster of KSU. Over time one colony became 2, then more. At one stage he owned and managed for others more than 125 colonies. He currently is managing 25 – 40 colonies. John founded Lazy Dog Honey about 20 years ago and has established a respected wholesale and retail outlet for the honey that his colonies produce.

David Burns

David began beekeeping in the early 1990s and soon launched his own beekeeping business. A Certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apicultural Society since 2010, he is dedicated to sharing the latest scientific knowledge with beekeepers. David produces queens, nucs, and packages, and his educational outreach includes a popular YouTube channel with over 160,000 subscribers, a weekly livestream, and a beekeeping podcast. He co-authored *Backyard Beekeeping: Everything You Need to Know to Start Your First Hive* (Rockridge Press, 2020) and writes a monthly column for *Bee Culture* magazine. David also offers online beekeeping courses, a mentorship program, and speaks at conferences nationwide.

Arren Heenan

Arren is originally from Northern California, and she moved to Kentucky in 2001 when she attended the University of Kentucky. She is self-employed, and her family has a small hobby farm in Fayette County. Arren is the Secretary for Bluegrass Beekeepers Association, Secretary for the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and a supervisor of the Fayette County 4-H Bee Club. Arren and her husband, Thomas, have three daughters who are very busy bees! Arren loves to hike, garden, bake and make beeswax candles.

Wes Henry

Wes Henry has kept bees since 2011 and teaches and speaks at many venues. He has written for *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* magazines and local papers and blogs. Mentoring new beekeepers, he also operates under the name “Summer’s Bird Honey” producing colonies, honey, and beeswax. He is currently President of Capital City Beekeepers.

Jack Kuhn

Jack Kuhn has been keeping bees for nearly 20 years and operates Kuhndog Ridge Farm. While residing in Franklin County, he manages about 50 hives in seven bee yards located in four counties. In addition to raising bees for honey production, Jack also sells Kentucky-raised queens and nucs. Jack

has raised his own queens for over ten years, and selling locally for five. Jack is retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service after over 34 years of service. He assisted landowners with conservation easements, wetland restoration, flood mitigation, and flood protection for rural communities. Jack and his wife Leigh live in the Peaks Mill Community on a small want-a-bee farm, also raising sweet cherries, peaches, and sweet corn for sale at the Franklin County Farmers market.

Jessica Mayes

Jessica has been on the Kentucky State Beekeeper Association board since 2021 and served as President in 2022. She currently serves on the board as Assistant to the Treasurer and Grant Coordinator. She has been keeping bees since 2002 and currently has about 30 hives on her small farm in Bourbon County. Jessica is a member of the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders as well as several local associations and can often be seen teaching and advocating for the Certified Kentucky Honey Producers program. As part of Lexmark's Sustainability program, Jessica keeps 5 hives in the solar field at Lexmark where she has worked as corporate metallurgist since 2000. The honey from these hives is used for outreach and education, including partnerships with local breweries to promote honey bees and other pollinators. Jessica was awarded co-Beekeeper of the Year with Bonnie Joseph in 2022.

Theresa Martin

Theresa Martin is the author of *Dead Bees Don't Make Honey: 10 Tips for Healthy Productive Bees*, which includes a Foreword by Dr. Thomas Seeley. Theresa has achieved 99% colony survival and honey production that is twice the local average in her eight years as a beekeeper, with 20–25 colonies in Kentucky. She practices nature-based beekeeping, which is a methodology that places bee health as the highest priority and optimal pathway to productivity. Following the model of how bees survive in the wild, employing integrated pest management, and providing high support yet low intervention, she demonstrates that healthy, alive bees are more productive than sick or dead bees. Theresa is a Cornell Master Beekeeper, 2024 Kentucky State Beekeeper of the Year, and President of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association. She is also a writer for Bee Culture Magazine. She worked at Fidelity Investments and Procter & Gamble in information technology and operations management. Theresa can be reached at theresa@littlewolf.farm Her book is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Dead-Bees-Dont-Make-Honey/dp/B0CY9G9C89>

Dorothey Morgan

Dorothey Morgan is past president and founder of the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders' Association, a board member of the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Co-op, and the instrumental inseminator and founding member of 'Chasing Feral Honey Bees', where, selecting for the mite biting trait, she inseminates 100 queens yearly. She's been a resident of Kentucky since 2001, having retired as Master Firefighter and EMT from the Anchorage, Alaska Fire Department that year. She has inseminated queens for the Purdue Bee Lab, Ohio Central State University and the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Co-op, who market their queens. She has also taught instrumental insemination. With her group, 'Chasing Feral Honey Bees', she and her team collect feral swarms in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and Central Ohio. She was chosen Kentucky's Beekeeper of the Year in 2018.

Janet Osborn

Janet Osborn has been a landscaper for 25+ years and lover of plants forever, beekeeper for 10+ years with Lazy Dog.

Christopher Palmer

Christopher Palmer of Cynthiana, KY, is the Branch Manager at Dadant & Sons Inc. Frankfort, KY, focusing on sales and customer service in the beekeeping supply industry. Chris has practiced his bee husbandry skills for over 20 years and is also a partner of Palmer Brothers Bee Farm, which produces Honey, Bee Colonies, and Queens for the needs of the surrounding community. Chris is actively enrolled in the Master Beekeeping Program at the University of Florida, where he has secured his advanced beekeeping level, and is actively working towards achieving his Master's level. In addition to his titles, Chris is a board member for the Licking Valley Honey Bee Society(Cynthiana, Ky), which hosts the annual Cynthiana Honey Festival, and Chris supervises the honey show. Chris focuses his time and effort on assisting beekeepers of all levels and stages in education and sustainable practices to ensure success in their own apiculture endeavors. Chris is also a member of the Certified Kentucky Honey Producers and serves as a Director with the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association.

Dr. Tamara (Tammy) Horn Potter, KSU Beginner Beekeeper specialist

Dr. Potter has served the beekeeping community in a number of ways: as an author, a state apiarist, a pollinator habitat consultant and now at KSU, as a beginner beekeeper extension specialist. She is also President of the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association, Inc.

She is author of “Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation” (UP of KY 2005), “Beeconomy: What Women and Bees Teach us About Local Trade and Global Markets” (UP of KY 2012), and “Flower Power: Establishing Pollinator Habitat” (Wicwas P, 2019).

She was the 2021 Eastern Apiculture Society Charles and Evelyn Divelbiss Award winner.

Tim Sheehan

Tim Sheehan lives in Harrodsburg KY and retired from a career in Forestry in 2015. He has been a beekeeper for 18 years. He and his wife Lori live on a small farm, have 150 hives in Mercer County, and produce around 6,000 lbs. of honey annually. Their business name is My Harrodsburg Honey Company. Tim has been an active board member for the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and is co-manager of the KY State Fair honey booth. Tim is also a member of the local bee club, Fort Harrod Beekeepers. The family unit includes two married sons, two grand daughters and a German shorthaired pointer named Bee. Bee is a great bird dog and she's not for sale.

Tommy Steele

Tommy began beekeeping in the 1960's helping his uncle with his hives. He stopped for a while but got back into beekeeping during the 1990's to have one or two hives to produce honey for the family. Then he met Larry Blandford, who became Tommy's mentor. Under Larry's mentorship Tommy's hive count exploded to more than 50. Over the years, Tommy has mentored dozens of aspiring beekeepers. He regularly holds Q&A sessions for beginners at the Bluegrass Beekeepers

meetings. Tommy has been voted Beekeeper of the Year multiple times by the members of the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association.

Mark Stutler

Mark Stutler is a hobbyist beekeeper with over 5 years of experience. His primary apiaries are on properties along the Kentucky River in Owen County. He targets having about 25 hives. He enjoys swarm trapping mostly feral swarms around northern and central Kentucky.

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Webster

{From the KSBA Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation}

Dr. Thomas Webster is a recipient of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association's **Lifetime Achievement Award** for an incredible 50 years of research and service to the art and science of beekeeping. His decades of curiosity and commitment shaped beekeeping worldwide, inspiring generations of beekeepers and researchers.

Dr. Thomas Webster has devoted his personal and professional life to supporting beekeepers in Kentucky and beyond. His tireless work to improve the technical, practical, and academic aspects of apiculture has made a lasting impact on thousands of beekeepers across the country. Dr Webster has published many papers, articles, and chapters for research documents and has over 800 listed citations, showing his far-reaching influence on fellow researchers in apiculture. As a Professor of Entomology in the college of Agriculture at Kentucky State University since 1988, Dr. Webster has always prioritized teaching and research projects that have had a profound impact on generations of future entomologists and beekeepers as well.

In 2002, Tom was instrumental in organizing one of the first large-scale Beekeeping Schools in the State, the Bluegrass Beekeeping School, which remains one of the largest and most comprehensive annual educational beekeeping events in Kentucky. He insured its continual growth by arranging for it to be hosted on the campus of KSU over 20 years ago, where it remains today.

Working with colleagues from Purdue and Michigan State, Tom was instrumental in establishing the Heartland Apiculture Society in 2001, where he was at the forefront of bringing practical education and a large-scale technical conference for beginning and advanced beekeepers to the Midwest.

By facilitating these schools and conferences, among many more, Tom has promoted networks and support structures that have helped the extended beekeeping industry gain a foothold we desperately needed but never had. His willingness to answer questions, speak and teach hands-on classes at events, and even welcome regular beekeepers into his labs throughout the years has helped all of us become better beekeepers. Through decades of teaching, research, and fieldwork, Dr. Webster has become a trusted voice in the beekeeping community and a passionate advocate for pollinator health.