



**Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA)  
2024 Annual Meeting  
January 8-12, 2024  
In conjunction with  
American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference and  
American Bee Research Conference (ABRC)  
Marriott New Orleans, 555 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Sunday January 7th-**

Travel Day

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm AIA Conference check-in Hotel Lobby

**Monday January 8th ALL DAY FIELD TRIP \*(Half-conference)**

8:00 am - 8:30 am – AIA Conference Check-In, Welcome and Introductions continued

8:30 am - 10:00 am – AIA Field Trip Travel to Baton Rouge, LA (Full day offsite)

10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Tour of the USDA Honey Bee Research and Laboratory

12: 00 pm - 1:00 pm – Lunch (provided) catered

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Lab tour continued

3:30 pm - 6:00 pm – travel back to hotel-

if needed quick stop at Bluebonnet Village Shopping Center, 7580  
Bluebonnet Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA

**Tuesday January 9th\*(Half-conference)**

8:00am - 8:30am AIA check in: Balcony L

**AIA Business Meeting: Balcony L**

8:30am- 4 pm

- 1. Roll Call by States and Provinces
- 2. President's Address
- 3. Reading of Minutes of Preceding Meeting- Send by Nov 28
- 4. Report of Secretary
- 5. Report of Treasurer
- 6. Report of Executive Committee-
  - Update on Tropi Trip
  - Bylaw update-Review now voted later in day.
  - Non-Profit Status
  - New Logo
- 7. Report of Auditing Committee



- 8. Reports of Special Committees
  - Quick updates from members serving on national committees- (2 min each max)
    - HBHC- Jen Lund
    - NAPPC- Mike Studer
    - BEE LOSS- Natasha
    - TROPI/USDA- Natasha
    - AIA/EAS-Kim
    - WAS- Alyssa
    - COLOSS- Natasha
- 9. Report of Membership Committee
- 10. Report of Awards Committee
- 11. Report of Resolution Committee
  - Vote on resolutions
- 12. Announcements and Appointment of Committees
  - Committee Chairs provide 2 sentence overview of committee charter
- 13. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers
- 14. Special Addresses
  - Velutina Update from Georgia
- 15. Old Business
- 16. New Business
  - By Law Change
- 17. Unfinished Business
- 18. Schedule Time and Place for Future Meetings

As soon as business meeting ends -

- Poster session / Happy Hour in Suite
- Inspector of the year Shout out!

\*Full Conference attendees-

6:30- 8:00 ABF dinner - ABF badge required (must pre-register)



### **Wednesday January 10**

8:35 am ABF Keynote Frank Rinkevich

### **10:00- 12:00**

#### **AIA General Session and Invited Speakers**

#### **Lightning Round Presentations from National Leaders**

120 min total (10 min presentation up to 2 min questions) 9 max presenters

1. 10:00- 10:10 MP3 & Michigan- Anna Heck (in person)
2. 10:12- 10:22 CAPA- Ernesto Guzman (via Zoom)
3. 10:24- 10:36 USDA-Beltsville - Dr. Sam A. (via Zoom)
4. 10:38- 10:50 USDA-Beltsville- Dr. Mohamed A.(via Zoom)
5. 10:52- 11:02 NHBS- Rachel Fahey- Pre-recorded
6. 11:04- 11:14 ABF- Debbie Sieb / Dan Winter (in person)
7. 11:16- 11:30 NAGC- Zack Bateson (in person)
8. 11:32- 11:42 Guam update- Chris Rosario (in person)
9. 11:44- 11:54 Project *Apis* m-Danielle Downing (in person)

#### **Emerging Pests and Diseases Discussion**

#### **1-4pm (2 x 1.5 hour sessions)**

Velutina In North America

- Brad Cavin- SC
- Gard Otis- U. Guelph by Zoom

Tropi Mite

- Rogan Tokach- Auburn

#### **4:00-5:00 pm Closing ceremonies**

Conversations about the future

- Goals
- Priorities
- Collaborations
- Action plan for 2024
- Evaluation: microsoft form

\*Full Conference attendees-

5:30- 7:00 ABF dinner - ABF badge required (must pre-register)

### **Thursday January 11th** \*(Full-conference)

7:00 am – 5:00 pm ABF General Session: Full Schedule

8:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRC General Session: Full Schedule TBD

### **Friday January 12th** \*(Full-conference)

8:30am – 5:00pm – ABF General Session and Tradeshow: Full Schedule

8:00am – 5:00pm – ABRC General Session: Schedule TBD



**Presenter Bios:**

**Ana Heck** is Michigan State University's Apiculture Extension Educator. She began working with honey bees after college while working with a nonprofit organization in Nicaragua. When she returned home to Minnesota, she pursued a graduate degree in public policy and worked with the University of Minnesota Bee Squad. Ana began working at Michigan State University in 2019 and started her position as an Extension Educator in 2020. Her role engages beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, and home gardeners to improve pollinator health. Ana holds a master's degree in public policy and a graduate minor in entomology from the University of Minnesota.

**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 a TA of an introductory apiculture course at the National University of Mexico. Eventually, Ernesto kept more than 300 bee hives and produced over 10 tons of honey a year. He took several beekeeping courses in the USA and after getting a DVM degree, he moved to Davis California for graduate education in Entomology. After getting his PhD, he conducted research on the behavior 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 15 years. Ernesto Guzman's research is focused on genetics, behaviour, and diseases of honey bees. Dr. Guzman is author or co-author of more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and is recognized as a world authority in honey bee breeding and parasitic diseases of bees.

**Dr. Samuel Abban**, is a biological science technician at the Bee Research Laboratory, in Beltsville, Maryland. The lab, part of the US Department of Agriculture, researches and identifies honey bee parasites, diseases, and pests for Federal and State regulatory agencies, as well as beekeepers throughout the world.

**Dr. Mohamed Alburaki** is a research science technician at the Bee Research Laboratory, in Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Alburaki has conducted a comprehensive genetic analysis of the honey bee population in the United States.

**Rachel Fahey** is the project coordinator for the USDA APHIS National Honey Bee Pests and Disease Survey, a comprehensive examination of colony health across the United States. She earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Wesley College (DE), where she cultivated her passion for nature and all things honey bees. Outside of work, Rachel manages 12 colonies near her home on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



**Dan Winter** is President of the American Beekeeping Federation. The ABF takes a comprehensive approach to serving its members by addressing educational programs, research, and legislation impacting beekeepers at the state as well as national level.

**Christopher Rosario** serves as the state entomologist, apiary inspector, serves on the National Plant Board, oversees state pest detection and regulatory activities and coordinates survey activities between government agencies, public and private organizations. Coordinates the state's initial emergency response if an exotic pest is detected.

**Danielle Downey** serves as the executive director of Project Apis m. She was an entomologist by the time she was 5 years old, hunting bugs under rocks in South Dakota. She has been working with honey bees and the parasites that plague them for 30 years. Her background includes training and research from bee labs in Minnesota, Canada and France; beekeeper education, work with commercial beekeepers and queen breeders, regulatory work as a State Apiarist in Utah and Hawaii, and wrangling bees for TV and film.

**Zack Bateson** is the research manager at the National Agricultural Genotyping Center, a non-profit lab in Fargo, North Dakota that specializes in molecular diagnostics. Since 2016, NAGC has offered a comprehensive panel to detect and quantify pathogens for the beekeeping industry. Zack aims to leverage NAGC tests for improving pest surveillance and refining pest management strategies. While Zack knows how to use a hive tool, most of his time is spent writing and analyzing data. He will be presenting a presentation Titled: Allied research and testing support: strengthening pest detection together

**Brad Cavin** Stephen Bradley (Brad) Cavin began working for Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry (DPI) as a Plant Pest Regulatory Inspector in 2007. In 2013, Brad was appointed the State Apiary Inspector for South Carolina. His responsibilities in this role include oversight of regulatory activities of the Clemson University Department of Plant Industry Apiary Inspection program in South Carolina. Brad conducts random inspection of beekeepers/queen breeders, and investigates calls from beekeepers concerned about possible pests and pathogens. He recommends establishment of protective or restrictive quarantine as required due to disease or deleterious exotic species and enforces the South Carolina Honey bee laws and regulations. In order to assist beekeepers with management of honeybee diseases, parasites, and pathogens, Brad frequently collaborates with Clemson University's Extension Apiculture Specialist. He educates the public by hosting discussions regarding honeybees and the laws that regulate the honeybee industry. Brad issues certificates of inspection for queen breeders and migratory beekeepers as well as certificates for exportation and importation commerce for colonies of honeybees.



**Gard W. Otis** Dr. Gard Otis studies the ecology, behaviour and evolution of honey bees and other insects. His early passion was birds. However, as an undergraduate student at Duke University, he “discovered” insects during a summer internship in Panama. Subsequently, as a graduate student at the University of Kansas, he conducted research in French Guiana and Venezuela, to understand the biology underlying the remarkable success of African honey bees in South America.

Gard became a professor at the University of Guelph in 1982. The arrival of honey bee tracheal mites in the USA in 1985 led him to first determine they were serious pests of honey bees, then to successfully breed mite-resistant honey bees that reduced the impact of the mites on beekeeping in Ontario. From 2006-2013 he directed a beekeeping development project in Vietnam, for which he received the Order of Vietnam. He is recognized as an authority on the diversity of honey bees in Asia—and is the only person in the world to have observed all of the species of honey bees in their native habitats.

During his career at the University of Guelph he taught more than 7000 students about the fascinating lives of honey bees and other insects. Now retired, he remains involved in research and writing projects related to honey bees, hornets, and butterflies. He currently collaborates with researchers in India on the ecology of giant honey bees and in Vietnam on honey bee responses to giant hornet attacks.

Gard lives with his wife and son near Guelph, Ontario.

**Rogan Tokach** Rogan Tokach is a second year PhD student at Auburn University under Dr. Geoff Williams. His main research focuses on mitigating amitraz resistant Varroa mites, but he has also had the opportunity to travel to Thailand to work on Tropilaelaps dispersal and management.