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Friday 15th & Saturday 16th February 2019

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- * Margaret Ginman * Irene Power * Jim Ryan * Nigel Semmence *

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75th Annual Conference



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FOREWORD

John Witchell

UBKA Immediate Past President



Human kind has manipulated his environment from earliest times, and we know from cave paintings that we have always had a relationship with honey bees. We may not know how long ago we began to control them, but today we have reached a situation where it is questionable how they would fare without beekeepers. Maybe the answer is “much better”.

This year we will be celebrating our 75th conference. I can only imagine what the hot topic was 75 years ago, but we all know that today our bees are suffering from the effects of a growing human population and our effect on global ecosystems. So, now more than ever, we owe it to our honey bees, and the 98 other species of Irish bee, to come together not only to celebrate their amazing contribution to our world but also to learn more about their trials and tribulations in coping with global change, and how we must help them.

In the few years that I have kept bees, Europe has experienced the arrival of the Small Hive Beetle and the Asian Hornet - and soon we will be their next stop, just as with Varroa in the 1990s.

Hence the importance of welcoming internationally recognised, gold plated, speakers to this special conference. We therefore look forward to welcoming our keynote Professor Marla Spivak, from the USA, as well our great team of speakers and demonstrators from Ireland and the UK to what I know will be a fascinating and informative 75th conference.



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Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary Conference!

UBKA Conference 2019

OVERVIEW

This year UBKA celebrates 75 years of providing conferences and serving the needs of the Ulster beekeepers. So many changes and challenges have shaped the organisation into a vibrant body providing first class education and support. Our conference attendance numbers have increased considerably in recent years to over 300. This is due to inviting world class speakers and providing the best trade exhibition in this part of the world.

We are delighted that our keynote speaker this year is **Professor Marla Spivak** from the University of Minnesota. Marla is the Distinguished McKnight Professor in the Department of Entomology where she has been centred since 1993. She is also a MacArthur Fellow, the most prestigious scientific award in the United States. Her focus is in developing practical applications to protect honey bee populations from decimation by disease and at the same time contributing to our understanding of bee biology. Her first lecture is called “What is going on with bees in the United States” and will give us an insight into apiculture across the pond and the problems they face. In her two other lectures she will cover her pet subjects of breeding hygienic bees to confer resistance to Varroa mites and how beneficial propolis is to the health of a colony by its antimicrobial properties. A few years ago, Marla gave a TED Talk on problems honey bees face which is well worth viewing on YouTube. This is her first visit to Northern Ireland.

Professor Giles Budge has recently taken up the chair of Professor of Applied Crop Protection at Newcastle University. His main interests are on disease diagnostics and how diseases spread not only in bees but in plant crops. He will be giving us a lecture on the Foulbrood diseases which have been a problem here with spikes in incidence of both conditions. Giles will also talk about Chronic Bee Paralysis which has mushroomed in recent years and is becoming a significant problem.

Clive de Bruyn first took an interest in bees in the 1960s. He gained his National Diploma in Beekeeping in 1976 was second in command at the National Bee Unit and has had numerous roles in beekeeping and beekeeping education. Now in his mid-seventies, he runs 200 hives with average yield of 110lbs per hive... all on his own. He will be sharing his great experience on the swarming phenomenon and its control. He will also be imparting very salient points on the art of queen introduction, a skill he feels is largely overlooked.

Margaret Ginman is the General Secretary of the Bee Farmers Association. She looks after the administration of its 450 members. She is involved in many bee related committees in the UK and regularly attends conferences in Brussels. She was instrumental in setting up the Bee Farmers Apprenticeship Scheme which is proving immensely successful. Her lecture will be on Climbing the Beekeeping Ladder.

Irene Power is part of a beekeeping dynasty. She combines her love of beekeeping with a very busy career in an IT company with constant travelling and schedules. Her lecture on "Efficient Beekeeping" will outline how she organises and plans her beekeeping round her busy career. Her second lecture on Nuc production will show how their use is integral to the overall smooth running of the beekeeping operation.

Jim Ryan comes from a beekeeping lineage with a number of family members involved in the craft. He has been very active in all areas of beekeeping since he became a lecturer in 1989. His great passion is the History of Beekeeping in Ireland. He has amassed an huge archive of Irish Beekeeping literature from all areas of this island. It is fitting that his talk will be on the History of Beekeeping in Ulster on the seventy fifth anniversary of our conference. Jim will be having an exhibition of historical material in the Trade Hall which will be very interesting.

Nigel Semmence is the Contingency Planning and Science Officer for the National Bee Unit. He is leading our bid to keep the Asian Hornet, Small Hive Beetle and other bee pests out of Britain. He has been heavily involved in the strategy to curtail the recent incursions of Asian hornet. Nigel will be giving us a run down on the natural history of the pest and a blow by blow account of the fight against it. Small Hive Beetle is still present in Southern Italy and the threat of it coming our way has been overshadowed by the Asian Hornet. Nigel will explain why we must not forget about this other dangerous pest to our bees.

UBKA ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with the latest news and upcoming events from the Ulster Beekeepers Association via our website, Facebook and Twitter.



www.ubka.org



Ulster Beekeepers
Association



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FEEDBACK

We continually try to improve the conference year on year, therefore we would really appreciate your feedback, positive or negative, please email your comments to ubkaconference@gmail.com



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2019 Workshops

WHAT IS BEEKEEPING ALL ABOUT

We are keen to help our beginner beekeepers who will be starting their preliminary course just before our conference. Our Chairman, Patrick Lundy, will be hosting two tutoring sessions for these newcomers and he will be ably assisted by experienced beekeepers. This is an opportunity for beginners to have an informal Q&A session.

(Please note discount available to 2019 registered Preliminary Course students.)



SKEP-MAKING

There is no end to the demand from delegates wishing to learn this ancient and fascinating craft. Louise McClean will weave her magic and impart endless advice. She will provide all the materials for her class and everyone from beginners to experienced crafters are welcome.

QUEEN REARING

An important topic for all beekeepers with Jonathan Getty.



HIVE BUILDING

Billy Millar returns to give a master class in hive building and will give many tips on how to build your hives easily and efficiently. This leads to a wonderful sense of achievement when you see your own hives take shape.

MICROSCOPY

Sam Clawson will be hosting two sessions of microscope techniques for beginners and experienced enthusiasts.

Sam will be demonstrating procedures to investigate disease diagnosis in bees. Suitable for those planning to sit Microscopy exams. Booking is essential for these sessions please contact by email: ubkaconference@gmail.com



Conference Speakers

Prof. Marla Spivak

Marla Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and a McKnight Distinguished Professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. She is the author and creator of numerous beekeeping manuals and videos and her scientific articles have appeared in journals such as *Journal of Neurobiology*, *Evolution*, *Apidologie* and *Animal Behaviour*. She has bred a line of honey bees, the Minnesota Hygienic line, to defend themselves against diseases and parasitic mites. This research focuses on genetically influenced behaviours that confer disease resistance to entire colonies through the social interaction of thousands of workers. Current studies include the benefits of propolis to honey bees, and the effects of agricultural landscapes on honey bee and native bee health. Her interest in bees began aged 18 when she picked up a book on bees and beekeeping and was immediately captivated by the science and the relationship beekeepers had with them. She earned her PhD in 1989 from University of Kansas which focused on the bees in Costa Rica. She has been fascinated by the social behaviour and healthcare systems of bees leading to work on propolis. In her spare time, Marla enjoys gardening, cycling, walking and practising Aikido. The MacArthur Fellowship Award, which Marla was awarded in 2010, is the most prestigious scientific award in the United States.



Prof. Giles Budge

Giles Budge obtained his degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of East Anglia and his PhD in Molecular Plant Pathology from the University of Reading. He previously worked for Horticulture Research International, ADAS, Central Science Laboratory and Fera before moving to Newcastle University in 2018 to set-up a pathology laboratory specialising in crop and bee health.



Giles is an applied scientist with expertise in apiculture, pathology and diagnostics. He worked as the research coordinator for the National Bee Unit for 12 years, where he was responsible for delivering over 40 research projects. Most notably he led a project funded under the Insect Pollinators Initiative on European foulbrood and a transatlantic partnering award. His research interests include combining experimental biology, molecular detection and modelling to improve our collective understanding of disease epidemiology. Giles has provided expert evidence to inform government policy reviews surrounding pollinator health and is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

Most recently Giles has been working on the repeated invasions of the yellow-legged hornet and a BBSRC responsive mode grant to investigate the emerging honey bee disease chronic bee paralysis.

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Clive de Bruyn

In the 1960s Clive was a metallurgist in Sheffield buying honey at 4s/lb. "I can keep bees he thought." It took him three years to appreciate that it was cheaper to buy his honey. Since then he has been an amateur, commercial and professional beekeeper, managing bees in 11 English counties.



In 1976 he gained a National Diploma in Beekeeping and soon afterwards joined the National Beekeeping Unit where he rose to be second in command, in charge of bee diseases. Clive then worked for Honey Farmers Ltd, as their trouble shooter. During this time he was seconded to the Jamaican government to rear queens.

Clive has experience of beekeeping in Africa and South America with "Africanised bees". He has visited China, India, Thailand, and Japan looking at other Apis species. In 1996 he spent two months working with Australian beekeepers. He carried out a survey of 13 countries in the Caribbean for their beekeeping potential in 2011.

For 15 years he was the County Beekeeping Instructor for Essex. His book, "Practical Beekeeping" was released in 1987.

Margaret Ginman

Margaret Ginman is a successful business woman with a background in national newspaper journalism. She joined the Bee Farmers Association as its first paid General Secretary five years ago to increase its voice at regional, national and international level and develop commercial partnerships.



Since then the organization has launched a world class apprenticeships scheme to enable members to pass on their skills to future generations. She is a member of the EU Working Party on Honey, Defra's Bee Health Advisory Forum and the National Pollinator Implementation Group and Scotland's Bee Health strategy group. She works closely with BFA Pollination Officer Alan Hart as well as scientists drawing up research projects relating to honey bees. She is also a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers.

Conference Speakers Continued...

Irene Power

Irene comes from a well-known family of beekeepers in County Tipperary. Getting involved in beekeeping was a natural progression for Irene as her early childhood memories are returning from Dublin listening to the sound of a boot load of empty honey jars. Irene is an active member of Tipperary and Limerick BKA.



Irene's philosophy in life is if you get involved in any activity be it work related or a new hobby you learn as much as you can on the subject and finally become an expert. A hands on approach is the best route, 80% of your learning should come from experience and 20% from reading. A curious person by nature Irene never accepts the status quo, the why, how, where, what type questions are always important to her until a full understanding of the topic is achieved.

As a lecturer she is always in demand at home but has also lectured in England, Wales, Denmark and Texas. Working as a senior executive with a busy schedule it's not easy to have time for your bees so Irene has applied some of her business skill in managing her 20 hive on limited time. Irene believes that planning ahead and maintaining all your production hives at full capacity is important hence the need for Nuc production.

Jim Ryan

Jim Ryan is from Thurles, Co Tipperary. He has the beekeeping gene on both sides of the family as both his mother's father and father's mother were beekeepers. As a child he helped his grandfather wax frames and make up section crates. He did a beginners course in Thurles in 1983. Immediately the course was over he got bees. He attended Gormanston for the first time in 1984 and has attended every year since. He did all the exams and qualified as a lecturer in 1989. Since then he has lectured extensively all over these islands. From 1988 to 1998 he wrote "Hints for Beginners" in An Beachaire and from 1998 to 2012 he was editor. For many years he was Chairman of North Tipperary BKA and also served as their treasurer and secretary. He is current chairman of GBBG - the Galtee Bee Breeders.



He has been FIBKA Librarian for many years, and is presently acting Archivist having collected a large quantity of old material going back to the late 1800s. From 1987 to date he has put together an almost full set of the Irish Bee Journal which was published from 1901 to 1933 and later from 1910 to 1933 as The Beekeepers Gazette. This material was collected for the benefit of all beekeepers north and south.

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Nigel Semmence

Nigel is the current NBU's Contingency Planning and Science Officer, with responsibility for planning for the arrival of exotic pests and diseases of honey bees. He learned beekeeping from his grandfather in Norfolk.



He graduated with Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Leicester University in 1991. He has worked in California for an almond pollination company as a consultant developing methodologies for the large scale breeding of solitary bees and their use as commercial pollinators.

Nigel was a Regional Bee Inspector for 6 years covering from Northamptonshire down to Dorset with a team of seven Seasonal Bee Inspectors. During winter seasons, he planned and implemented a training programme for beekeepers with the objective of increasing self help within the industry inline with the aims and objectives of the Healthy Bee Plan. His present role at the National Bee Unit takes in the surveillance and containment of invasive species such as the Asian Hornet and Small Hive Beetle.

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LECTURES

Friday 15th February

2.00pm	Conference Opening and Registration
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Clive de Bruyn - Dealing with the Swarming Urge.
4.45pm	Opening Address
5.00pm	The Sam Millar Memorial Lecture <i>Sponsored by Donegal Bees</i> Marla Spivak - What is going on with bees in the USA.
6.00pm	Comfort Break
6.15pm	Jim Ryan - History of Beekeeping in Ulster from 1750. Display in Exhibition Hall.
7.15pm	Social Evening and Supper (<i>booking essential</i>)

Saturday 16th February

8.30am	Tea / Coffee and Scone
9.30am	Main Hall Marla Spivak - Breeding bees for Disease and Varroa Resistance.
9.30am	Lecture Theatre Irene Power - Easy Nucs.
10.20am	Tea / Coffee
10.50am	Main Hall Giles Budge - The Foulbroods: 75 years of Pestilence.
10.50am	Lecture Theatre Margaret Ginman - Climbing the Beekeeping Ladder.
11.40am	Break
12.10pm	Main Hall Nigel Semmence - Asian Hornet: coming closer.
12.10pm	Lecture Theatre Clive de Bruyn - Introducing the Queen.
1.00pm	Lunch (<i>booking essential</i>)
2.30pm	Main Hall Irene Power - Efficient Beekeeping for the Busy Beekeeper.
2.30pm	Lecture Theatre Giles Budge - Chronic Bee Paralysis: an emerging issue for Honey Bee health.
3.20pm	Break
4.00pm	Main Hall Marla Spivak - Benefits of Propolis to Honey Bee Health
4.00pm	Lecture Theatre Nigel Semmence - Small Hive Beetle: still a threat
4.30pm	Close in Main Hall

UBKA Conference 2019

WORKSHOPS

Saturday 16th February

10.30am	Microscopy - Sam Clawson (<i>booking essential</i>)
10.50am	Beekeeping Basics - Patrick Lundy First session for beginners embarking on their preliminary course and their journey into Beekeeping.
10.50am	Hive Construction - Billy Millar Hands on experience.
10.50am	Skep Making - Louise McClean A much loved craft.
2.30pm	The Beekeeping Year - Patrick Lundy Second session for beginners.
2.30pm	Microscopy - Sam Clawson (<i>booking essential</i>)
2.30pm	Hive Construction - Billy Millar Hands on experience.
2.30pm	Skep Making - Louise McClean A much loved craft.
2.30pm	Queen Rearing - Jonathan Getty

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A selection of photographs taken at the 2018 UBKA Annual Conference.





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Saturday - includes conference and trade show	£40.00	£32.00	£25.00	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday and Saturday	£56.00	£45.00	£35.00	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ulster
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UBKA'S OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- unite beekeepers in Northern Ireland for their mutual benefit in promoting apiculture;
- represent the collective interests of beekeepers;
- undertake activities which support local associations.