

119th

A n n u a l

Manitoba Beekeepers'
Association 2025
Convention & AGM

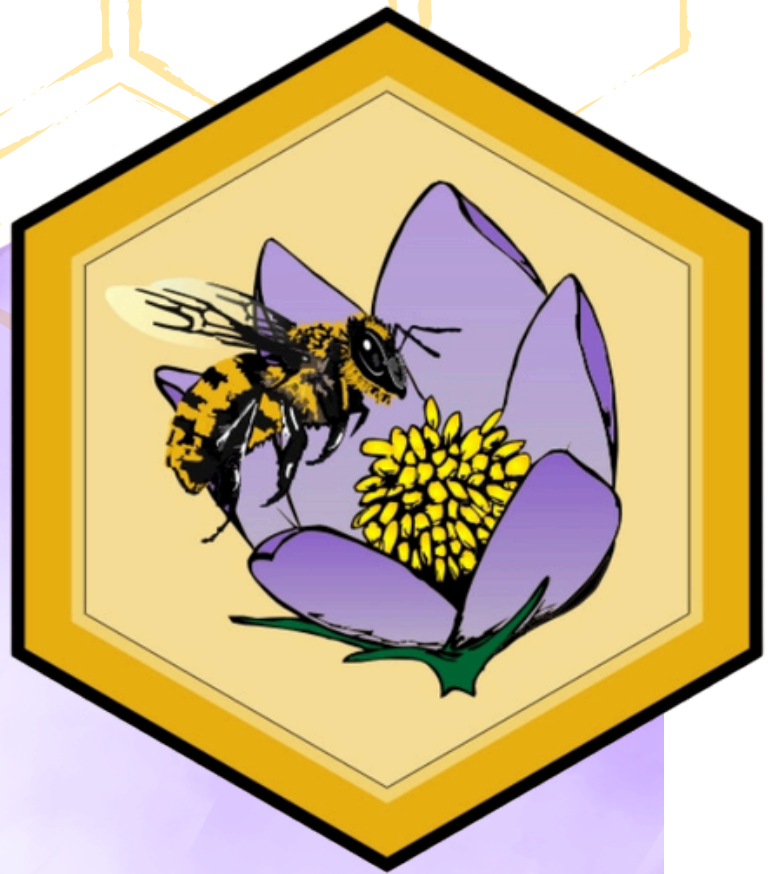


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Welcome!

Welcome to the 2025 Manitoba Beekeepers' Association's 119th Annual Convention, AGM, and Tradeshow! This year, we are excited to bring together beekeepers, researchers, and industry professionals to explore the latest trends and challenges facing our industry. From chemical interactions in colonies to the impact of viruses on queens, we have a robust agenda filled with expert presentations and research projects, including insights from the Manitoba Provincial Apiarist, the CHC, Health Canada, and our very own Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (K RTP). Our convention offers a unique opportunity for collaboration, learning, and networking, ensuring that you leave equipped with the knowledge and resources to tackle the challenges of beekeeping in the years ahead.

We are thrilled to welcome all of you to this important event, where innovation and tradition intersect to help drive the future of Manitoba's beekeeping community. The Tradeshow is an excellent space for exploring the latest products and services designed to support our industry. The MBA is dedicated to enhancing the sustainability of beekeeping in Manitoba, and we look forward to working together to ensure that our sector continues to thrive. Whether you are here to discover new research, connect with peers, or engage in important discussions about the future of beekeeping, we hope you enjoy the convention and leave inspired by all that we can achieve together.

Ian Steppler, MBA Chairperson

Our Speakers



Bob Binnie

Commercial Beekeeper
Georgia, U.S.A.

Bob Binnie is a commercial beekeeper and honey packer located in the southern Appalachian Mountains of northeast Georgia and does business under the name Blue Ridge Honey Company. Bob became involved with migratory beekeeping in Oregon in 1981 and has been both a pollinator and honey producer in numerous states. Voted 2003 Beekeeper of The Year in Georgia, Bob has also been President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, the Northeast Georgia Beekeepers Association and the Macon County Beekeepers Association in Franklin, North Carolina.

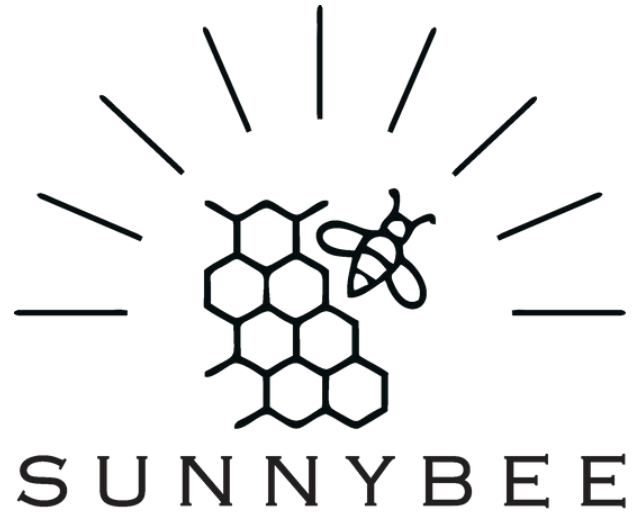
Nuria Morfin is an Assistant Professor in Apiculture and Honey Bee Biology at the University of Manitoba with expertise in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), selective breeding, and honey bee pathology. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Guelph's Honey Bee Research Centre, where she studied stressors affecting bee health and behaviour, behavioural immunity, and the lipidome and metabolome profiles of bees. Following her doctoral work, Nuria served as the lead of the British Columbia Technology Transfer Program, focusing on supporting the beekeeping industry through research and education. She has collaborated on numerous research projects across North America and has taught courses in IPM, queen rearing, and honey bee biology.



Dr. Nuria Morfin

University of Manitoba

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Our Speakers

Alison McAfee has been researching honey bees for the last ten years, studying anything from hygienic behaviour to queen quality to whether western red cedar hive boxes are bad for bees (they aren't). She obtained her PhD in genome science and technology from UBC, where she graduated with the top award in the Faculty of Science, and went on to be selected for the L'Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talents award (a global accolade given to 15 women each year). Alison is now a research associate at the University of British Columbia and is working on queen overwintering strategies, pheromone



Dr. Alison McAfee
University of British
Columbia

biology, and drone heat tolerance. She is also an author, contributing regularly to American Bee Journal, with other works published in Scientific American and The Conversation. She grew up homeschooled on East Cracroft Island -- a remote location south of Knight Inlet -- and enjoys fishing, dressage, and hiking for 100s of kilometers in the mountains.



Dani Glennie
Queen breeder,
Saskatchewan

Dani Glennie is a 2nd generation beekeeper from Saskatchewan where she is currently in the process of succession on her family farm. Dani has been raising queens since she was 17 yrs old. It is her favourite part of the bee season and she looks forward to it every year because it's never the same and the challenges are always changing. Dani has spent four years on the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association board and two years on the CHC board where she was able to meet beekeepers from across North America and help to deal with the issues that affect us all. The passion in the queen raising community is contagious and she is happy to talk to any and all about their breeding experiences.

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Our Speakers

Diana Cox-Foster is a Research Leader and Entomologist at USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit (PIRU) in Logan, Utah. PIRU focuses on biology, management, and systematics of all bee species. Stakeholders include beekeepers, bee managers, growers who use Apis and non-Apis bees for pollination, and land managers of natural ecosystems. PIRU has the U.S. National Pollinating Insect Collection, with research on conservation of bee biodiversity. Cox-Foster examines the impact of pathogens



Dr. Diana Cox-Foster
USDA-ARS Research Leader
and Entomologist, Utah

and pesticides on bee health, for honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees. Cox-Foster received a B. S. in Entomology and Zoology at Colorado State University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Cox-Foster gained skills in molecular biology as a post-doc at Vanderbilt University. In 1987, Cox-Foster joined Penn State University as a faculty member and served as a full professor. At PSU, Cox-Foster was one of the initial scientists responding to colony collapse disorder in honey bees and co-director of the CCD working team. She transitioned to USDA-ARS in October 2015.



Gerry Friesen
Manitoba Farmer
Wellness Program

Gerry Friesen, AKA the Recovering Farmer, is a co-founder of the Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program. He comes from a diverse background of experience, learning and discovery through farming and as a stress and conflict management specialist. Gerry's passion is in helping others find solutions for the various issues that life throws at us. A combination of his own journey with anxiety and depression, training in conflict resolution and intensive counseling training provide him the tools to help others who are struggling.



2025 Agenda



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

7:00pm - 9:00pm	Evening Buzzwords: Beekeepers in Dialogue MBA board committee reports, U.S. risk assessment update
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

7:30 - 8:00	Registration Open
8:00 – 8:15	Welcome Remarks MBA Chair Ian Stepler
8:15 – 8:30	Canadian Honey Council Update Osee Podolsky
8:30 – 9:30	Toxic Chemical Interactions in Our Colonies Bob Binnie
9:30 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:30	Advancing Honey Bee Research: New Projects at the University of Manitoba Honey Bee Lab Dr. Nuria Morfin
10:30 – 11:00	Are queens susceptible to virus infections? Yes, and this may be causing them to fail (Part 1) Dr. Alison McAfee
11:00 – 11:30	Chart Your Beekeeping Future Dani Glennie
11:30 – 12:00	MBA AGM: Sustainability Report, Call for Nominations

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:30	Provincial Apiarist Update Derek Micholson
1:30 – 2:15	Beekeepers & Pesticide Regulations Health Canada: Marcie Schultz and Marnie Burr
2:15 – 2:45	Fieldwatch Bob Walters
2:45 – 3:15	AgriStability Benjamin Hamm
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 5:00	MBA AGM: Chair Report, Resolutions, Financials, Dir. Voting
5:00	AGM Adjournment
5:30	Cash Bar
6:00	Banquet – The Travel Adventures of Daryl and Rhéal

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd	
7:30 – 8:15	Registration
8:15 – 9:00	KRTP – Knowledge & Research Transfer Program Update Matthew Polinsky
9:00 – 10:00	Processing Honey: A Closer Look Bob Binnie
10:00 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:00	Are queens susceptible to virus infections? Yes, and this may be causing them to fail (Part 2) Dr. Alison McAfee
11:00 – 11:30	The Circle of Life: A Queen Raising Journey Dani Glennie
11:30 – 12:00	Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program Gerry Friesen

12:00 – 1:00

LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00	Bee Health: Untangling the factors impacting Bees Diana Cox-Foster and Kelsey Graham
2:00 – 2:30	Bee-Ware of Varroa: Tackling the destruction and buzzing towards solutions Dr. Nuria Morfin
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:30	Varroa Strategies & Future Directions <i>Moderator:</i> Matthew Polinsky <i>Panel:</i> Bob Binnie, Dani Glennie, Dr. Nuria Morfin, Derek Micholson



Our Speakers

Born & raised in Winnipeg, **Derek Micholson** began working with honey bees in 2009 as a summer student in Dr. Rob Currie's Bee Research Lab at the U of M, where he continued as a full-time research technician and later completed an MSc in Entomology, focusing on honey bee grooming behaviour. Derek also worked for many years as honey bee and leafcutting bee inspector and was also the first Program Lead of the Knowledge & Research Transfer Program (K RTP) in 2021. In 2022, Derek was hired to replace Rhéal Lafrenière as Provincial Apiarist for Manitoba. Derek also maintains a small hobby operation of his own, allowing him to continue honing his general beekeeping & queen rearing skills, trial different treatments, and stay well-connected to the issues of the day.



Derek Micholson
Provincial Apiarist
Manitoba Agriculture



Matthew Polinsky
K RTP – Program Lead

Matthew Polinsky serves as the Program Lead for the Manitoba Knowledge and Research Transfer Program (K RTP). With over 15 years of experience in apiculture, he has worked extensively in commercial beekeeping operations in different regions including Saskatchewan, New Zealand, Australia, as well as in urban beekeeping in Montréal. Prior to joining the K RTP in 2023, Matthew contributed to Canadian honey bee research through the Saskatraz bee breeding project, the University of British Columbia, and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. Originally from Saskatchewan, Matthew is a graduate of Concordia University in Montréal.

Our Speakers

Marnie Burr - Health Canada

Regional Pesticides Officer
Pesticide Compliance Program – Prairies

Bob Walters - Fieldwatch

President / CEO

Marcie Schultz - Health Canada

Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement Officer
Pesticide Compliance Program / Regulatory
Operations and Enforcement Branch

Benjamin Hamm - Agristability

Farm Management Specialist
Manitoba Agriculture

Rod Scarlett - CHC

Director

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Sustainability Committee Report

This past year, the Sustainability Committee focused on raising awareness about the challenges facing Manitoba beekeepers and advocating for policies that support pollinator health. A key initiative was planning Manitoba Day of the Honey Bee, which took place on May 29 at Little Brown Jug in Winnipeg. The event attracted media, industry stakeholders, and government representatives, including the Minister of Agriculture. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the world of bees through informational booths and activities while also engaging in discussions about the challenges facing beekeepers in Manitoba. With the support of our sponsors, we were able to highlight the increasing difficulties of keeping bees, including hive health, environmental pressures, and the need for stronger industry and government support.

A major highlight of the event was receiving an official proclamation from the Minister of Agriculture, Ron Kostyshyn, declaring May 29, 2024, as Manitoba Honey Bee Day. This recognition underscores the vital role honey bees play in agriculture and reinforces the importance of supporting Manitoba's beekeeping industry.

Additionally, we recently submitted a formal letter to the Minister of Agriculture, outlining our recommendations for a province-wide roadside habitat initiative. This initiative aims to promote pollinator-friendly land management by establishing stronger partnerships between beekeepers, municipalities, and government agencies. By encouraging biodiversity along Manitoba's roadways, we hope to create healthier environments for honey bees and other essential pollinators.

Looking ahead, the Sustainability Committee remains committed to advancing practical solutions for pollinator health, strengthening industry partnerships, and ensuring a thriving future for Manitoba's beekeeping sector.

Michael Clark



PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

PROCLAMATION

2024 MANITOBA HONEY BEE DAY PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** Manitoba's honey bee industry is comprised of approximately 1,000 beekeepers, including over 200 commercial beekeepers who maintain 115,000 honey bee colonies throughout the province; and
- WHEREAS** The Prairie provinces, including Manitoba, are major honey producers and produce 80 per cent of Canada's crop; and
- WHEREAS** Commercial honey production contributes significantly to the economy with some \$50 million in farm cash receipts annually and 18 million pounds of high-quality honey, about 80 per cent of which is exported all over the world; and
- WHEREAS** Honey bees are critically important to the pollination of crops that provide approximately a third of the world's food and contribute an estimated additional \$130 million annually in increased crop yields in Manitoba; and
- WHEREAS** The Manitoba Beekeepers' Association with support from the Knowledge and Research Transfer Program, Red River Apiarists' Association, Brandon Area Beekeepers' Association, BeeMaid, and Dancing Bee Equipment, will host a public celebration and fundraising event on May 29 at Little Brown Jug Brewery in Winnipeg to honour the honey bee; and
- WHEREAS** Manitoba Agriculture is proud to support the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association and to recognize the important role of honey bees and bee producers throughout our Province;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT I, Ron Kostyshyn,
Minister of the Department of Agriculture, in the Province of Manitoba, do
hereby proclaim:

May 29, 2024 as

MANITOBA HONEY BEE DAY



Honourable Ron Kostyshyn
Minister, Manitoba Agriculture

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