

September 14, 2016

Dear Fellow Beekeeper and/or MBA member:

As President of the Mississippi Beekeepers Association (MBA), I want to personally invite you to join us at our annual convention on November 4-5, 2016. It will be held at Ramada Airport Convention Center, 9415 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503 (ph. 228-868-8200). The room rate is \$67.19 per, which includes taxes.

We are still working on the program, but speakers will include scientists from the USDA, ARS Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge, Jennifer Berry for the University of Georgia, Carl Webb from Georgia, Dan Conlon, a member of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association. Local speakers will include Milton Henderson, the MSU Apiculture program staff and other MBA members. Registration forms for MBA membership and for the annual conference have been attached to this email. They should be completed and returned by October 21, 2016. For beginners and hobby beekeepers, please note that special workshop sessions will be ongoing on Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday.

If you would like to bring a door prize, feel free to do so and note it on your pre-registration form. Just report it at the registration desk as you arrive on Friday. Giving away door prizes is a way to spice up a meeting. We also seek items that could be used in a silent auction. We encourage you to bring items for the silent auction related to beekeeping (even ones you no longer use but are still in good condition), crafts (paintings, stitch work, etc.), tools (every beekeeper needs tools in the shop), or other interesting/ unique items. Silent auction items should be brought in no later than Saturday, Nov. 5 @ 8AM.

Please contact Joe Scott [phone: 228.669.8336 or email: elevenoaks58@cableone.net] if you wish to mail your donated items for either the silent auction or for door prizes. His mailing address (where to send door prize donations) is: 23416 Meaut Road, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Thanks for your time and support of beekeeping in Mississippi, and I look forward to seeing you in November.

The schedule for the convention will be similar to last year. We will hold a Board of Directors meeting on Friday morning (TBA). Afterwards, the convention will begin Friday at noon and continue until 5:30 PM. The banquet dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, and there will be some entertainment from a local performer during the meal. We will resume the convention on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM, and it will end at 5:00 PM on Saturday. The MBA business meeting will immediately follow the convention. Jeff Harris is still developing the program for the convention, and when it is completed, he will post it on his website and via email.

Please note that the conference pre-registration fee is \$25, and registration at the door will be \$35.00. ***Also, we ask everyone to renew their normal MBA memberships in the months of September-October every year. We do not want renewals streaming through the entire year. So, please, just get into the habit of renewing your MBA membership during September through October of each year.***

Additionally, there will be the Honey and Wax Contest. If you would like to participate, please see the rules for entering and judging standards at the MSUCares website:

(<https://blogs.msucares.com/honeybees/files/2014/08/JUDGING-STANDARDS.pdf>).

I am looking forward to a very fine meeting, and I hope you can join the fun and festivities.

Sincerely,



Austin C. Smith
MBA President