



Promoting the welfare of Vermont's Honey Industry since 1886

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**2024 Vermont Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting Agenda  
January 27, 2024  
Champlain Valley Union High School, Hinesburg, VT**

**08:30-09:00 – Doors open, registration, coffee.**

**09:00-09:05 -Welcome and opening remarks** – Welcome from Vermont Beekeepers Association (VBA) President, Jeff Battaglini

**09:05-09:15** – Brief Business Meeting

- Bylaw proposed Bylaw addition to Article II. Officers on transfer of leadership after elections:

*Officers' terms shall terminate at the end of the meeting in which their replacements are elected, and newly elected officers shall assume their respective roles at that time.*

The full “Section II. Officers” is included below for context.

**09:15-09:30 Recognition** – Past President, Andrew Munkres, and the VBA Recognition Committee: Anne Bowers, Jeff Cunningham, Jeffrey Hamelman, Peggy Apple-Woods, Fred Putnam, Jr.

**09:30–10:05 Recent activities affecting Vermont beekeeping and beekeepers.**

- **Update on the VBA Vermont Honey Promotion Campaign Grant work and thoughts for the future** – Project leader, Andrew Munkres.
- **Response to the recent news release from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets regarding honey bee health in Vermont** – Andrew Munkres on behalf of the VBA Board of Directors
- **What is the Vermont Pollinator Working Group and what is its mission?** – Dr. Samantha Alger
- **Upcoming Vermont legislation restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in Vermont** – Scott Sanderson, Conservation Law Foundation.



**10:05-10:30 Morning break and social gathering to welcome new members** - in the cafeteria. Refreshments provided.

**10:30-Noon – Keynote Speaker – Past President, Andrew Munkres – bio. below**

**Topic:** What we now know about the effects of pesticides on honey bees – what science is telling us.

**Noon–12:45** Brown bag lunch in the cafeteria room. Make it a point to chat with some of the new folks.

### **Afternoon Presentation**

**12:45-1:45 – Pesticide testing in Vermont – Recent results and plans for 2024 – Dr. Samantha Alger**

**1:45-2:00 Introducing the New Beekeeper Helpline for newer beekeepers – Robin Foldesy**

### **Concurrent afternoon workshops session**

**2:00–3:00 Ask Me Anything Question & Answer – all experience levels welcome – Andrew Munkres and others**

**2:00–3:00 Ergonomic principles for beekeepers – Fred Putnam, Jr., Safety and Occupational Health Specialist (and beekeeper)**

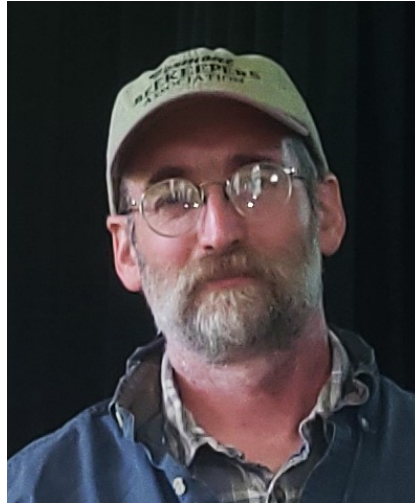
**2:00–3:00 Pests and Pathogens Diagnostic Microscopy– Sydney Miller, Vermont Bee Lab**

**3:00-3:15 Wrap-up** - President Battaglini.

**3:15 P.M. End**



## About our keynote speaker - Andrew Munkres, Past President, VBA



For many years, Andrew taught beekeeping classes at Green Mountain College. He has been the guest educational speaker at literally dozens of places over the years. These include:

- a. Local banks, senior centers, and similar organizations holding community talks.
- b. Every organized beekeeping club in Vermont – often more than once.
- c. Clubs outside VT such as the Capital Region Beekeepers (around Albany, NY) and the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association.

Andrew was instrumental in fashioning the state law that established two-mile radius buffers around commercial apiaries to reduce the likelihood of colony overcrowding and consequent exhausting of food resources leading to colony health issues.

He was part of the VBA team in 2019 that developed the wording in proposed legislation, H.205, that eventually led to Vermont getting its first full time State Apiculturist in more than 30 years.

He was part of the VBA team that helped update to the state statute in 2021 - Act 129 - that defined “local” and “raw” which included honey in those definitions for the first time.

He was also part of the VBA team dealing with Act 249 in 2021 that established the Agricultural Innovation Board looking at ways to reduce agricultural pesticide use (that affect our pollinators) and reduce waste streams from farms in VT.

Andrew has twice provided expert testimony to the Vermont Agricultural Innovation Board about the known impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on honey bees and alternatives to the current use of neonics.

He was a key member of the VBA working group that established the VBA’s first comprehensive training outline for new and prospective beekeepers on the VBA website.

He has personally conducted or co-presented more than a dozen recent online VBA workshops via Zoom and more are scheduled.

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He was instrumental in supporting the creation of the Vermont Bee Lab at UVM and continues to support their research efforts in his apiaries.

Andrew has supported preparation of a Long-Range Plan to guide VBA's initiatives in the past and coming years. This has moved the VBA into a position of both supporting beekeepers directly and serving as the primary advocate for apiculture interests in Vermont.

During his years in the VBA Board of Directors, Andrew has served the past three years as the VBA President and before that, three years as Vice President.

In his role as President, and in accordance with the priorities in the VBA Long Range Plan, he has helped the VBA establish strong working relationships with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAFMM) staff.

In 2022, thank to countless hours of work by Andrew, the VBA was awarded a Federal Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) to develop a statewide honey promotion campaign and to improve compliance by retailers and beekeepers with Vermont honey labelling laws and regulations. This campaign has rolled out with Andrew being the point of contact with the professional marketing company developing the program.

He is a key member of the Vermont Pollinator Working Group whose mission is to reduce the use of pesticides affecting pollinators in Vermont.



This is the full text of the VBA Bylaws, Article II, for context. The yellow highlighted text is the proposed addition.

## **ARTICLE II. OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Officers shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Director-at-Large, and immediate past president of the VBA, elected annually by the membership of this Association. It shall be non-profit and shall be conducted in such a manner as to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. The President may appoint advisors to the board. These advisors are non-voting and serve to advise and assist the board.

Section 2. Each Officer of the Association shall serve until his/her successor is elected and has assumed office. During their term of office, each Officer will have their yearly membership dues waived.

Officers' terms shall terminate at the end of the meeting in which their replacements are elected, and newly elected officers shall assume their respective roles at that time.

Section 3. The terms of office for President, Vice President, Secretaries, and Treasurer and Director-at-Large shall be for one year. The President and Vice President may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

Section 4. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, and when present, shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President, unless some other person is specifically authorized by vote of the Board of Directors, shall sign all agreements and contracts of the Association. The President shall appoint the Chairman of such standing committees as are deemed necessary to carry out the aims and policies of the Association. He or she shall perform all the duties commonly incident to his/her office and such other duties as may be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors and not contrary to the Constitution or Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code as amended. The president shall hold at least four board meetings per year and these may be conducted online, by telephone, or in person. Votes may occur via electronic mail or a voice vote.

Section 5. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence or disability of that Officer. He or she may also perform other duties as directed by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of the funds and securities of the Association and deposit the same in the name of the V.B.A., in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors may elect. He or she shall sign all checks, drafts, notes and orders for the payment of money in accordance with such rules and regulations for the same as may be made by the Board. He or she shall keep an account of receipts and expenditures and other financial transactions of the Association; shall report such receipts, expenditures and transactions to the membership at the annual meeting, a statement which shall be audited by an auditor appointed by the President. He/she shall perform other such duties as may be required of him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of all proceedings of the Association, and to conduct the correspondence of the same, including posting of the



minutes of board meetings and the winter and summer meetings on the organization's website. He or she may also perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the Membership Secretary to record the name and address of each member and the date dues were paid. He/she shall perform other such duties as may be required of him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Director-at-large to perform such duties as may be required of him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 10 Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled by a member appointed by majority of the Directors then in office whether or not a quorum. Incumbents thus appointed shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election of officers by the membership.

*Section 11* Any person or committee, who is responsible for conducting a sale, operating a honey booth at a farm show or other venue or otherwise engaging in business for Association members, shall see to it that all bills are paid and settlement made with participating members within thirty (30) days after the close of such business undertaking. A statement of quantity of goods sold, and monies received and disbursed shall be submitted to the President and Treasurer within thirty (30) days.