

# Presenter Biographies

## *Dr. Deborah Delaney*

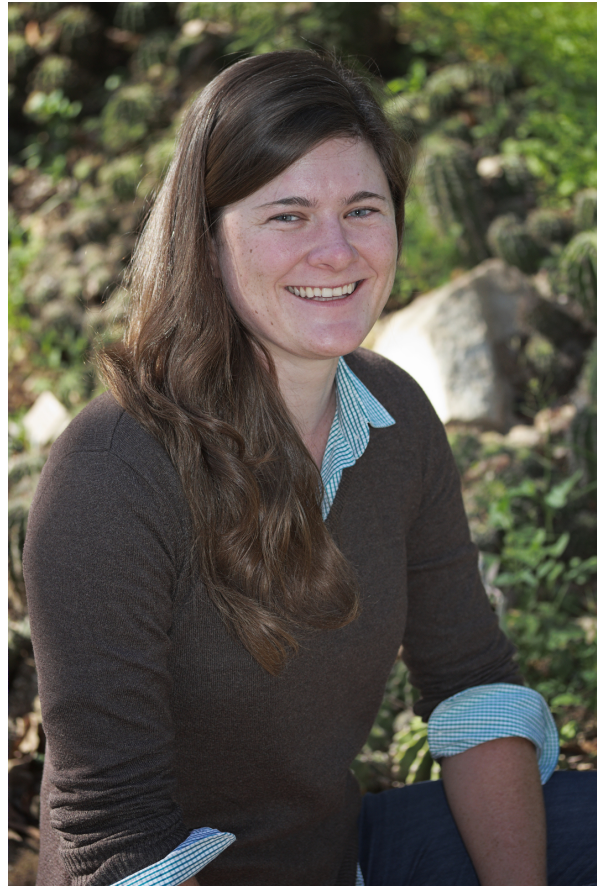
Deborah Delaney is an associate professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware where she mentors graduate and undergraduate students working on various aspects of pollinator health and productivity. She teaches Insects and Society, Apiculture and Pollination Ecology and Aquatic Entomology. She has over 20 years of experience



working with pollinators, specifically honey bees and maintains between 25-60 colonies in the teaching apiary at UD's Newark farm. Her research program has four main focal areas: 1) genetic identity and diversity of US honey bees 2) temporal stability of pollinator populations and 3) best management solutions for creating sustainable managed pollinator populations 4) pollinator nutrition and forage mapping.

## *Dr. Parry Kietzman*

Dr. Parry Kietzman has been keeping honey bees since she was a high school student. She attended Wheaton College in Illinois, where she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Biology. Following this she completed her PhD in Entomology at the University of California at Riverside, where her research focus was on honey bee communication and group decision-making. She spent 18 months as a postdoctoral researcher at North Carolina State University where she conducted research on honey bee virus genetics. She is now the head researcher and educator for Appalachian Headwaters and is very excited to be helping educate beekeepers and research natural beekeeping in the great state of West Virginia!



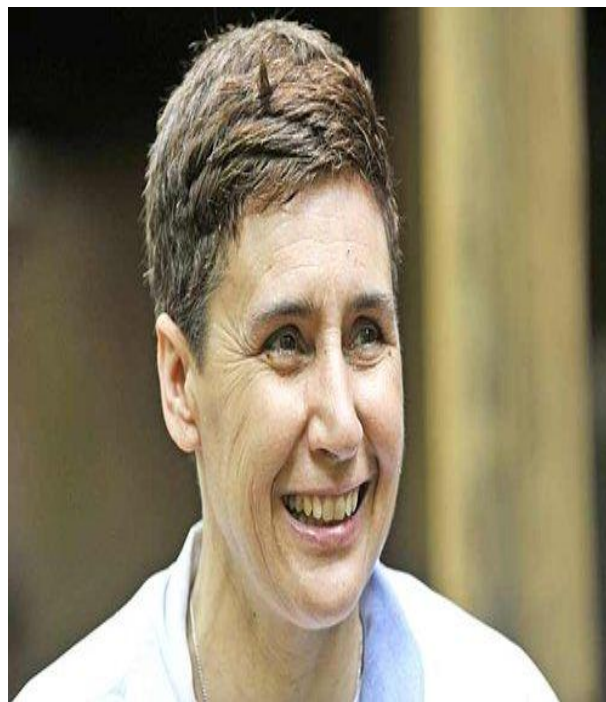
## *Dr. James Wilson*

Dr. James Wilson joined the Virginia Tech faculty in January 2017 as the new Extension Apiculturist. His duties include Extension efforts and teaching about bees and other insects throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. James grew up in Southport North Carolina and earned his BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from NC State in 2008. During his studies at NC State he became engrossed in the smaller wildlife of the region, especially insects. James went on to earn his MS in Entomology with Dr. Rick Fell at Virginia Tech, researching forensic entomology in wildlife poaching, while trying to learn as much about bees as he could on the side. After his Master's, James worked with Dr. Tom Kuhar, Vegetable Entomologist at Virginia Tech, on the Integrated Pest Management of Cucurbit Production in Virginia. His dissertation research focused on pest and beneficial insect interactions as well as the qualification of pesticide exposure risk to honey bees. James maintains Virginia Tech's research and teaching apiaries and is looking forward to expanding the impact of Apiculture Extension throughout Virginia and surrounding states. For more information, please visit [blogs.ext.vt.edu/bees](https://blogs.ext.vt.edu/bees) .



## *Cindy Bee*

Cindy Bee is a third generation beekeeper and a passionate educator on a variety of sustainable beekeeping subjects. She comes to the co-op from Maine where she is co-owner of Overland Apiaries, a 150 colony operation focusing on small scale queen rearing, overwintered nucleus hives, and honey production. She is the author of the book *Honey Bee Removal: A Step by Step Guide* and has run a full time bee removal



business for over fourteen years. She is a national and international educator and has managed apiary studies for the University of Georgia and participated in SARE grants to assess queen viability.

Cindy was the first female certified master beekeeper through the University of GA at the Young Harris Institute, is past President of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, and was Georgia Beekeeper of the Year in 2007. She holds an MFA in creative writing and is interested in the stories of other beekeepers.

Her current passion is educating beekeepers nationally and internationally on sustainable beekeeping practices. She comes to the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective with great enthusiasm and excitement for the new beekeepers in the area as well as the incredible potential for pollinators in the region.

## *Jenny Newland*

Jenny Newland is senior scientist with Downstream Strategies responsible for leading its ecological restoration program. Jenny joined Downstream in January 2018 after 16 years with regional nonprofit, Canaan



Valley Institute. Jenny's technical expertise is in ecology and sustainable forest management of Central Appalachian forests with a special interest in recreating native plant systems through restoration projects. Jenny has a BS in biology and earth science from Stanford University and a MS in forestry from the University of Montana. Before joining CVI, Jenny worked as a registered professional forester, teacher, restoration specialist, forest management researcher, and agro-forestry volunteer with Peace Corps.

## *Kathy Watson*

Kathy Watson was a city girl growing up in Huntington. Her first exposure to beekeeping began in 1992 when she married her husband Walter Watson, moved to the country and began the wonderful journey of becoming a beekeeper, currently keeping 8-10 hives.

Kathy and Walter educated themselves on the cultivation of bees and the natural products bees produce—not only fresh honey, but also beeswax.

With an abundance of wax piling up and using all natural ingredients, Kathy began making beeswax candles, and products that have beeswax as an ingredient, such as lotion, lip balm and soaps. Her new passion is sharing products of the hive. Kathy has been involved with the Corridor G Beekeepers Association in various positions since its inception 25 years ago and is currently on the path to becoming a master beekeeper.

