

# GBKA Galway Beekeepers' Association Cumann Beachairí na Gaillimhe

presents



## Speaker Ms Fiona McKenna



Fiona McKenna is an Inspector based in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Horticulture and Plant Health Division since October 2017. Prior to this she graduated from UCD with a Degree in Agriculture and Environmental Science before completing a Research Masters with the University of Limerick. She spent the following seven years working for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland with time spent in CAFRE providing equine industry education and the Plant Health Inspection Branch which was responsible for plant and bee health in Northern Ireland. Her current role in DAFM includes working in the areas of plant health and hygiene controls as well as the National Apiculture Programme, bee health and bee imports. Fiona is a beekeeper and has responsibility for the DAFM colonies located at Backweston.

Fiona will address us on the requirements for food production with emphasis on honey and honey based products production, presentation and labelling. Current and planned regulation and how it will benefit beekeeping.

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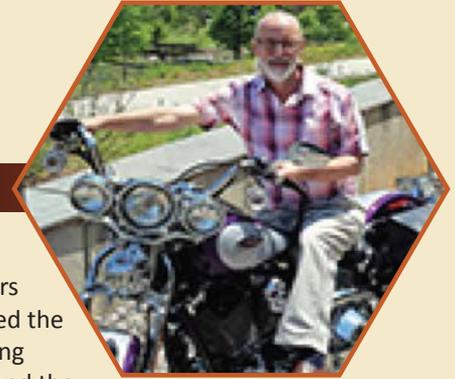
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## Speaker Mr. Michael Young MBE

Michael Young lives in Hillsborough, Northern Ireland. A Georgia Master Beekeeper and keeper of bees for over 30 years he is also a professional chef. In the year 2000, Michael founded the Institute of Northern Ireland Beekeepers modelled on the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute after his first visit to Young Harris and the States in 1999. Michael is the instigator and founder of the Welsh Honey Judge Program that started at the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in 2000. I think he likes Harleys.



An International Senior Honey Judge and expert showman in exhibiting beekeeping products across the world, he has collected over 800 prize cards for his wares. He is skilled in many areas of apiculture including beeswax encaustic painting and mead making. Michael was the second person only in Ireland to use Langstroth hives. A lover of nature, gardening and photography, he also has a passion for orchids and painting in oils and watercolors. In 2008 Michael was awarded the title of Member of the British Empire, MBE, for his services to apiculture and conservation. However, Michael's most proud accomplishments are his 4 beautiful daughters, 5 granddaughters, and 1 grandson.

Michael will address us on what is involved in preparing honey for showing (the tricks of the trade so to speak), the common mistakes beekeepers make when preparing an entry and then on what the honey judges look out for. (colour, texture, appearance, taste, and viscosity etc.) Finally, what the ordinary beekeeper should have access to or possess by way of equipment.

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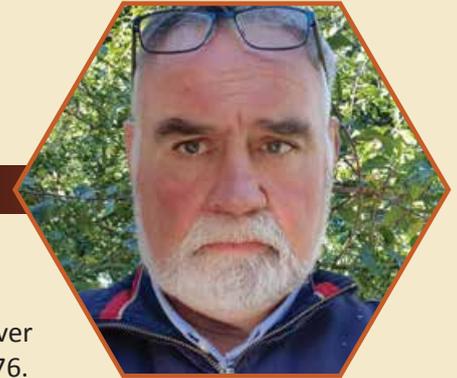
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## Speaker Mr. John Little

John grew up helping his dad with his bees, possibly the ideal start in any beekeeper's introduction to our craft. Still a boy, he took over his dad's bees in the wonderful summer of 1976. John attended Gormanston for many years and was mentored by Finbarr Dineen, There was no Varroa back then. Family and career, intervened and John and beekeeping went on divergent pathways from 1987, only to converge again in 2002. John has kept native Irish Black Bees in his place in Co. Carlow ever since. John has a wealth of deep practical experience in the craft that he is willing to pass on to others



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## Speaker Dr. Fiona Edwards Murphy

Dr Fiona Edwards Murphy is the CEO & Co-Founder of ApisProtect Limited, she completed her PhD in October 2017 with the School of Engineering, and the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at University College Cork in the area of Internet of Things applications for honey bee health.

A recipient of the Google Women Techmaker Scholarship 2016, and the Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship 2014, she placed in the top three of the 2016 "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur" competition in the "Best New Idea" category and was awarded "Young Entrepreneur of the year" at the U magazine 30 under 30 awards 2017. She placed second in the Blackstone/Techstars global Student Entrepreneurs awards, and represented Ireland at the European Union "Ideas from Europe" challenge, placing 2nd in The Hague in April 2018.

Her Topic, ApisProtect was founded in 2017, aiming to create a technology solution to improve the yield of commercial beekeeping. The ApisMonitor is our first technology solution, collecting data from 5 on-board sensors embedded in the hive roof. Machine learning and big data techniques extract valuable information about hive condition, activities, and productivity levels. Smart alerts, with actionable insights, are provided. These insights detail hive condition, identify problems, and suggest actions.



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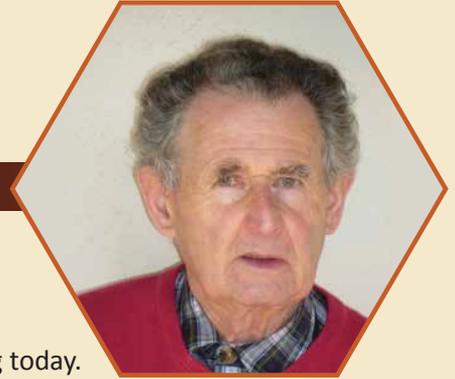
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## Professor Breandán Ó Cochláin

Many of the eminent beekeepers of Ireland progressed through their development under the watchful eye of Breandán during his time in creating the structures and examinations that we are all familiar with in beekeeping today.



Breandán has passed all the examinations including the Diploma in Apiculture which he introduced with the cooperation of Cork Institute of Technology and lectured at all levels at the Gormanston Summer School. He was Education Officer of FIBKA for 17 years, represented the GBKA at Congress and Executive Council for approx 20 years, has chaired a BBKA Congress in Stoneleigh, and gave all the lectures at an early days Greenmount Conference for UBKA. Breandán is professor emeritus of Physical Chemistry at NUIG.

Breandán will open the conference on Friday evening with a talk on the history and development of beekeeping in Ireland from the Middle Ages. We will hear how we got to where we are today and the important milestones along the way. Our rich heritage in the craft of beekeeping is not always well understood and Breandán is possibly the most well informed member of beekeeping living in our midst today.

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## Speaker Mr. Pat Curran

Pat is a beekeeper since the 1980's a bit nearer America from Killarney. He got in to beekeeping a bit reluctantly and to fulfill an obligation to a relative. He now keeps a large number of hives in what has to be one of the most scenic and beautiful parts of Ireland.

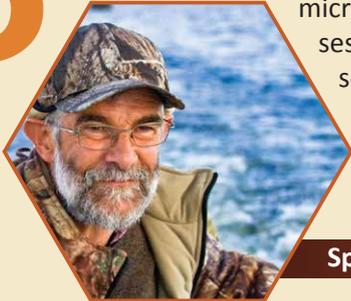
Pat is going to speak to us on a unique method of swarm control that he uses to great success and his triple action crown board. He will regale us with a vast repertoire of beekeeping lore that he has picked up along the way over his long career. It seems the Kerry seanacháí is not a lost art form after all.



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## Speaker/Convenor Dr. Louis Falke

Dr. Louis Falke worked for the last 20 years in Irish Healthcare, and since his retirement in 2015 he has taken his beekeeping to a more intensive level. He continues to pursue his interests in the scientific and microscopic aspects of Irish beekeeping; and hopes to see many good seasons in the future.

Kevin O'Crowley who will assist Louis has worked in various fields including Veterinary Parasitology and Microbiology, Environmental Bioremediation and Pathology. He takes part in outdoor pursuits such as fishing, fly tying, shooting, gundogs and beekeeping! He is a Director of the Carra, Mask and Corrib Water Protection Group.

They will present an interactive workshop where participants gain experience in the use of microscopy in the field of beekeeping; groups will be limited to 4-6 at a time and the sessions will last 35-40 minutes. Anyone interested is asked to collect floorboard scrapings (e.g. pollens, dead bees) and preserve them in alcohol and bring them to the session to see their own hives under the scopes.

We will schedule these sessions during the day as people write themselves in for it. So first session is for the first 6 names and so on.

## Speaker/Convenor Kevin O'Crowley

