

## Speaker Bios

• **Harriet Behar** and **Aaron Brin** of Wisconsin and **Garth Kahl** of Oregon will provide a half-day of organic apiculture inspection training. Behar, Brin, and Kahl are all organic inspector members of IOIA and beekeepers. They are also all members of the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA) apiculture working group, which just finished the new ACA Final draft organic apiculture guidance document. Behar is the organic specialist with Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Services (MOSES) and past IOIA Board Chair.

Brin is the Inspection Manager of Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA). MOSES and MOSA are unrelated organizations, but Brin and Behar are related by marriage.

• **Deborah Brister**, Aquaculture Research Fellow with the Dept of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota and now under contract with the MN Dept of Natural Resources to develop Best Management Practices for aquaculture, will deliver a 4-hour organic aquaculture workshop. Brister provided the first IOIA Organic Aquaculture inspection trainings in 2002 and 2003. Prior to this fellowship, Brister served as Sustainable Aquaculture Program Manager for the U of MN's Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability. She has taught an upper division sustainable aquaculture course at the University and is an aquaculture researcher with experience in a variety of species including rainbow trout, tilapia, Atlantic salmon, northern pike and walleye in recirculating systems, raceways and integrated aquaculture/hydroponic systems. Brister has been extensively involved in the development of organic aquaculture and has participated in developing feasible national and international organic aquaculture standards. Since 1999, she has worked closely with the NOP and was coordinator of a National Organic Aquaculture Workshop sponsored by the Institute in June, 2000. The workshop drew national and international participants from the aquaculture, organic, NGO, government, academia and food retail sectors together in an unprecedented fashion. This led to an ongoing commitment by participants to continue to work together towards national organic aquaculture standards. In addition to authoring numerous articles on organic aquaculture, she has served as co-chair of the NOSB Aquaculture Working Group, and was co-chair and coordinator of the IFOAM Aquaculture Group.

• **Bob Durst** of Oregon is a food chemist with the Linus Pauling Institute; Processing and Materials Director of Simple Organic Solutions- a consulting company; organic processing inspector; current IOIA Board Chair; and a frequent speaker on the topic of organic cosmetics. He was co-Chair of the NSF organic personal care committee. He holds an MS degree in Biochemistry and held a research position in the OSU Food Science Department for nearly 25 years.

**Ken Commins**, of North Dakota, is the Executive Director of the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) branch of IFOAM. The program was born in Brazil in 1992 at the IFOAM general assembly and has provided accreditation services internationally since 1993. Ken moved the IOAS office from Ireland to North Dakota in 1994.

• **Tina Ellor**, of Phillips Mushroom Farms in Pennsylvania, has served on the NOSB for 3 years. She is Chair of the NOSB Crops Committee and Secretary of the Board. She has a BS in Biology from California State College, and an MS in Botany and Plant Pathology from University of Maine. Undergraduate and graduate work involved growing mushrooms. She has MS degrees in Botany and Plant Science. Raised on a small diversified family farm in VT, she was a founding member of the Keystone Agricultural Innovation Center. She is currently Mycologist/Technical Director of Phillips Mushroom Farms in the mushroom capitol of the world, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. She has been working on mushroom farms and in the mushroom industry for over 20 years. She is a life long fan of organic farming and food and, of course, mushrooms. She says, "I am also an avid home gardener and just passed my master gardener exam for Chester County, PA!" Phillips Mushroom farms has been certified organic by PCO for about 15 years. For more info about Phillips Mushroom Farms, see [www.phillipsmushroomfarms.com](http://www.phillipsmushroomfarms.com).

• **John Foster**, Earthbound Farm, Senior Manager, Quality, Food Safety & Organic Integrity and newly appointed NOSB Member, has worked as an organic inspector, reviewer, certifier. He will provide the perspective of the organic fresh produce industry on food safety issues. For more information on the food safety assurance program at Earthbound Farm, see [www.ebfarm.com/Products/QualityFoodSafety.aspx](http://www.ebfarm.com/Products/QualityFoodSafety.aspx)

• **Dan Giacomini**, of Pacific Nutrition-Consulting in California, and also new Chair of the NOSB, is an independent dairy nutrition consultant specializing in organic and transitioning to organic dairies. He develops feeding programs for dairies and is a consultant to producers of feed and feed ingredients. Raised on a family dairy farm in northern California, he holds an MS degree in Dairy Science from the U of Illinois. He has presented several guidance statements to the NOSB, most recently on issues of access to pasture.

• **Garry Lean**, PAg of Ontario, has been an organic inspector for 20+years and IOIA Trainer since 2006. He is also past IOIA Board Chair. In 2009, he was involved in the COG/IOIA/OTA Canadian Organic Standards project to facilitate implementation of the Canadian standards in preparation for the July 1 implementation deadline. The project provided eight 2-day trainings for inspectors and certifiers in 3 months. Lean was Trainer at half of these, and shared trainer role for the only one to occur in the US, in June 2009 in Chicago. He holds a BSc degree in Agriculture and MA in Education.

• **Eric Mader**, of the Xerces Society is an Adjunct Assistant Extension Professor at the U of MN's Department of Entomology, and has authored several books and government management plans for native pollinators. For more information about Xerces, see [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)