



SICAMM

Societas Internationalis pro Conservatione Apis melliferae melliferae
International Association for the Protection of the European Dark Bee

NEWSLETTER

No. 2. (February 2025)

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1. Message from the SICAMM Main Board

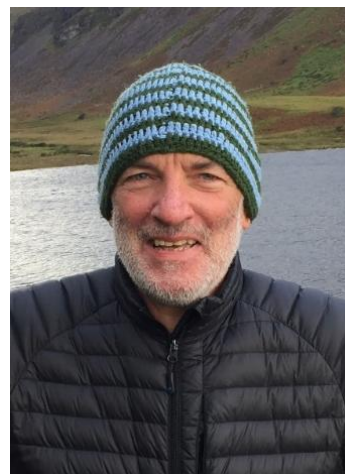
Dear SICAMM members/friends,

I hope you have had a great start into this new year!

One of the big stars this year is that the SICAMM Conference 2025 will take place in 51 days. I hope you will be there! Apart from meeting other colleagues, dear friends and listening to new interesting lectures, we will celebrate the 30-year anniversary for the protection of the dark European honey bee! Now, that will be a party of its own kind – be there!

We will also set new guidelines for how to move on the conservation of the dark honeybee. Here, we would welcome your visions and opinions – it is only together that we can help the dark honey bee to survive!

John Greenaway, SICAMM Vice President



2. SICAMM CONFERENCE 2025 – short facts

The conference will take place on **27-30 March 2025** in the city of **Stavanger**, located on the North Sea coast, in South-West Norway. Stavanger is one of the oldest cities in Norway and is today the 4th largest city in Norway.

The main organizers will be the Norwegian Amm organization, **Norsk Brunbielag** and the SICAMM Main Board, with support also from the European Beekeeping Association. Further details about the SICAMM conference 2025 can be found on the special conference information flyer. This includes the conference registration and payment form, <https://sicamm.org/>

Timeline:

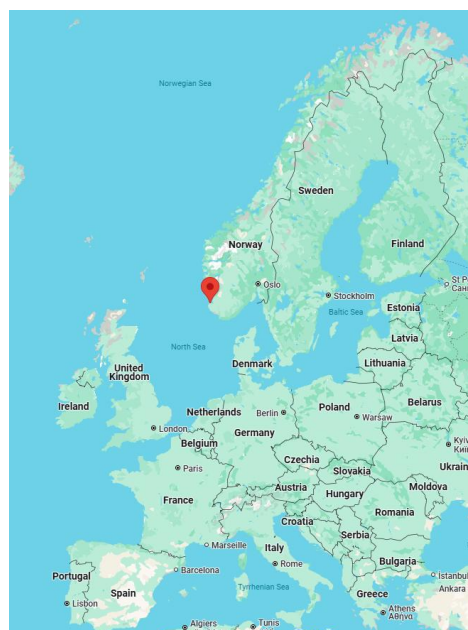
- **Conference fee:** 250 Euro – payment via Paypal on <https://www.sicamm.org/events>
- **Recommendations:** Book hotel room as soon as possible to ensure the SICAMM hotel price (PROMO code BBRU270325) – more details on the conference flyer (scroll further down to find the PDF file): <https://www.sicamm.org/events>
- **Submission of conference abstracts:** The official deadline (14th January) has passed, but we welcome late submissions, however we cannot guarantee if there will be room for oral presentations, but poster presentations or other type of activities on an exhibition booth are always welcome*. The form for this can be found in the conference flyer on <https://www.sicamm.org/events>, or use the attached word file for the SICAMM Newsletter 2.

Special greetings from the Norwegian Amm Association, <https://norskbrunbielag.no/om-brune-bier/>

The local committee would like to welcome everyone to this part of our long country. Late March is early Spring here, and the bees are just about to find it interesting outside. We hope you will find much of interest both indoors and outdoors during the conference and look forward to seeing you in Stavanger! [Velkommen til Norge!](#)

Lars Kirkerud, head of the Norwegian Amm Association, Norsk Brunbielag

* Poster presentations may be exhibited free of charge, except for commercial enterprises (for further details contact conference@sicamm.info).



Map source: Google



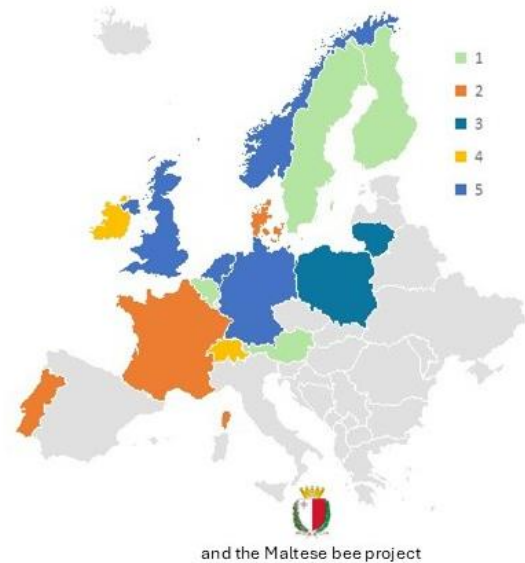
Norwegian dark honey bee.

Image credit: Audun Braastad/NTB-scanpix

3. SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

We can promise you that the programme has become very interesting, with 14 sessions on various topics – ranging from practical beekeeping, science, bee health conservation, bee products, and last but certainly not least, an impressive arrangement of presentations on dark honeybee conservation work in 15 different countries. An overview of the different presenters is shown in the map to the right

We expect that several of the pioneering dark honey beekeepers will come – it is thanks to them SICAMM exists today. We know for sure that 5 former SICAMM presidents or vice presidents will come. Further, a large number of several former chairs or board members of national dark bee associations from different countries will also come. Meet them and hear their stories on how they, for decades, have worked on the conservation of the dark honey bee in their home countries!



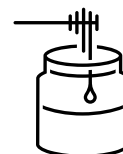
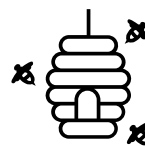
Preliminary distribution of presenters (numbers in different colors) from 15 different countries during the SICAMM Conference 2025.

We have expanded as well as simplified the plans for the Sunday excursion to meet various expectations and travel schedules. Three options will be available:

- 1) **City Tour in Stavanger**, from 9 am till about lunch time.
- 2) **Apiary visit in the Stavanger area**, from 9 am till lunch time.
- 3) **Scenic Fjord Cruise**, from 11 am till 2 pm. Sail silently aboard an electric boat along the beautiful Lysefjord. Admire among others a spectacular waterfall and the mighty Preike-stolen.

If you are interested in options 1 or 2, please email to conference@sicamm.info

If you are interested in option 3 you need to book and pay for yourselves on this link: <https://rodne.no/en/fjord-experiences/stavanger/fjordcruise-lysefjord-preikestolen/>












SICAMM CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 2025

(version 4th February 2025)



26.3.25	Thursday 27 March 2025	Friday 28 March 2025	Saturday 29 March 2025	30.3.2025
<p>If enough people arrive early: </p> <p>City tour if you are interested in this, please email conference@sicamm.info</p> <p>Options for social dinner https://www.edgeofnorway.com/en/food-and-drink  </p> <p>More details via SICAMM Newsletter & WhatsApp</p>	<p>Registration from 10 am</p> <p>1. Opening ceremony 11:00-11:10: Welcome to SICAMM Conference, the Main Board 11:10-11:20: Welcome from Norwegian Organizers</p> <p>2. Practical beekeeping with dark honey bees (Amm) 11:20-12:10: Bee improvement from a mixed population, Jo Widdicombe, UK 12:10-12:30: Norwegian Amm and SICAMM history, Nils Drivdal, NO 12:30-14:00: Lunch</p> <p>3. Bee breeding of the dark honey bee (Amm) 14:00-14:50: How to manage the treasure of genetic variation in black bees. Jaques van Alphen, NL 14:50-15:40: Bees and queens: Easy ways of producing them, Roger Patterson, UK 15:40-16:10: Coffee, Tea & Snacks</p> <p>4. Reports: Amm in Fennoscandia & the Baltic 16:10-16:25: Norway, Lars Andreas Kirkerud 16:25-16:40: Sweden, Ingvar Arvidsson 16:40-16:55: Denmark, Troels Demant & Ole Hertz 16:55-17:10: Finland, Markku Pöyhönen 17:10-17:25: Lithuania, Laima Blažytė-Čerėškienė</p> <p>5. Breaking the ice 17:25-17:35: Book presentation, Dorian Pritchard, UK 17:35- → : Exhibition, posters, drinks, snacks Dinner options (on own costs) : eat at the hotel or check: https://www.edgeofnorway.com/en/food-and-drink 18:30-21:00: By invitation: Assembly meeting for member associations</p>	<p>Registration from 8:30 am</p> <p>6. Biology and genetics of Amm 09:00-09:50: Discrimination between native and non-native honeybees using wing measurements, Adam Tolfski, PL 09:50-10:10: Genetic monitoring of honeybees and its application to Amm samples across Europe, Vanessa Huml, CH 10:10-10:30: Characterization of the Norwegian dark bee population, Linn F. Groeneveld, NO 10:30-11:00: Coffee, Tea & Snacks 11:00-11:50: A Europe-Wide Genetic Survey Uncovers Extensive C-Lineage Introgression in Amm Populations, Alice Pinto, PT 11:50-12:10: The unique Irish Amm, Alex Valentine, IE 12:10-12:30: Sustainable concepts for the conservation of Amm Populations, Gabriele Soland, CH 12:30-13:30: Lunch</p> <p>7. Conservation of endangered honeybee taxa 13:30-14:20: QRGS for the conservation of Amm in Ireland, Colm O'Neill, IE 14:20-14:40: Activities of De Duurzame Bij, with regard to bee colonies on Texel, Henk Kok, NL 14:40-15:30: The Maltese Bee, Dylan Farrugia, Malta 15:30-16:00: Coffee, Tea & Snacks</p> <p>8. Reports: Amm in central Europe 16:00-16:15: Eastern Germ., Jan Gutzeit 16:15-16:30: Western Germ., Jörg Schock 16:30-16:45: South Germ., Jörg Schock & Armin Lochner 16:45-17:00: Austria, J. Schock & D. Eppengschwender 17:00-17:15: Poland, Lucja Skonieczna 17:15-17:30: Switzerland, Gabriele Soland Dinner options (on own costs): eat at the hotel or check: https://www.edgeofnorway.com/en/food-and-drink</p>	<p>Registration from 8:30 am</p> <p>9. Honeybee health & fitness 09:00-09:50: Identifying and selecting for varroa resistant traits, Steve Riley, BIBBA, UK 09:50-10:10: Selection & the rate of living. Jaques van Alphen, NL 10:10-10:30: Nosemas & viruses in the M & C lineages of Amm, Laima Blažytė Čerėškienė, LT 10:30-11:00: Coffee, Tea & Snacks 11:00-11:20: Honey bee vitellogenin in an endangered honey bee subspecies, Viilde Leipart, NO</p> <p>10. Reports: Amm in Benelux, France 11:20-11:35: Belgium, Jürgen Boterberg 11:35-11:50: The Netherlands, Peter Kassies 11:50-12:05: The Netherlands, Hans Peter Verkooijen 12:05-12:20: France, Klébert Sylvestre 12:20-12:35: Normandie, France, Lionel Garnery 12:35-14:00: Lunch</p> <p>11. Honey bee miscellany 14:00-14:20: Honey – quality and requirements of quality, Oksana Bekkeveld, NO 14:20-14:40: Apitherapy in Lithuania, Neringa Sutkevicienė, LT</p> <p>12. Reports: Amm in UK & Republic of Ireland 14:40-14:55: England & Wales, Roger Patterson 14:55-15:10: Ireland, Frankie de Dobbelaere 15:10-15:40: Coffee, Tea & Snacks</p> <p>13. Conference finale 15:40-17:00: Discussion, Q&A, SICAMM team groups, Next SICAMM conference, Final words</p> <p>14. Celebration from 18:30. Dinner options (on own costs) to be announced. </p>	<p>Three options:</p> <p>1) City tour: 9 am-lunch </p> <p>2) Apiary visit: 9 am-lunch </p> <p>If you are interested in this, please email conference@sicamm.info</p> <p>3) Fjord Cruise: 11 am – 2.30 pm Note, to ensure your place, you need to book in advance via: https://rodne.no/en/fjord-experiences/staving-er/fjordcruise-lyse-fjord-preikestolen/ </p>

4. MESSAGE FROM THE RESIGNING SICAMM PRESIDENT

Dear SICAMM members,

Gabriele Soland has decided to hand over the Presidency at the General Assembly 2025 in Stavanger. She has been part of the Main Board since 2018 and as President since 2021. She has carried the SICAMM torch through Covid and was able to fulfil the vision and mission of the 2018 conference in Finland by founding SICAMM as a Federation. She feels it is now time to focus on the many other projects that had to be pushed back during this time. She is confident that the current team will be able to build SICAMM for the Member Associations.

The SICAMM Mainboard on behalf of Dr. Gabriele Soland



5. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE SICAMM MAIN BOARD

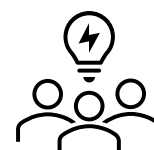
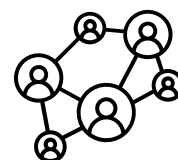
During the **SICAMM Conference 2025** there will be a **SICAMM Delegates Assembly Meeting**. The meeting will take place on the Thursday 27th March 2025. This is the official forum for the SICAMM Main Board and the Delegates of beekeeping Association Members to meet with each other.

Each Member Association has been invited to send one Delegate to speak and vote on their behalf. **Important decisions will be made, including elections of a new SICAMM President and the Main Board Members.**

We want to ask for your help in this – irrespective of if you are a member or not. We ask for nominations for members to the Main Board, being motivated to continue to lead SICAMM into a bright future. These suggestions can be for other persons, or for yourself.

A **Nomination Form** will be sent out to all by email together with the final Conference Program early February 2025. Please submit your nominations **no later than on the 13th March 2025**. If you are a Member of a SICAMM Member Association, place the nomination through your Association. If you are an individual, then please send your suggestion(s) to j.greenaway@sicamm.org for further information.

Participation is a vital part of any organisations success and SICAMM is no different. **We are offering you all the chance to be part of SICAMM ´s success !!**



6. SICAMM MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

SICAMM (*Societas internationalis pro conservatione Apis melliferae melliferae*) is a politically independent and denominationally neutral Association. It was founded in 1994 but has undergone several changes through the last decades. Last year, SICAMM became a federation. SICAMM promotes a sustainable approach to beekeeping through the conservation of native honey bee sub-species within their natural range, protecting genetic diversity and supporting sustainable beekeeping.

The Association strives to achieve this goal through, a) the exchange of information, education and advice, b) representing SICAMM's interests vis-à-vis political bodies and the general public, c) supporting participation in, and implementation of, scientific and applied research projects for the benefit of native honey bees. SICAMM shall seek constructive cooperation with government bodies, research facilities, beekeepers' organisations, environmental organisations, and any other organisations who support the objectives of SICAMM. SICAMM is exclusively a not-for-profit organisation and does not pursue any profit-making, or the self-interest of individuals. Individuals working for its members act in a voluntary capacity.


Membership is open to individuals and legal entities who support the objectives of SICAMM. Membership fees will be set by the Annual General Assembly. Honorary members, and Members holding office on the Main Board and the Scientific Board, are exempt from paying membership fees. Membership fees are due for the whole of the year of admission.

Application for Active Membership can be submitted at any time to the Main Board. Upon admission by the Main Board, membership is provisional and voting rights are pending until confirmation by the Annual General Assembly.

Individual membership fee: 50 Euro per year

Association membership: Annual flat fee of 200 Euro + 2 % of membership income per year, designated in Euros.

If you have any specific questions about SICAMM, its activities, or membership, please email info@sicamm.org.

Welcome to SICAMM, join in, and help us to help our beloved bees!! 

PS: Further details about the SICAMM federation can be found in the constitution, attached in the mail on Newsletter 2.

7. INFORMATION AND INVITATION TO THE SICAMM NEWSLETTER

The goal with this Newsletter is to summarize news, various activities and events relevant to Amm and other native bee issues. While News can be easily spread via digital media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, we assume that it would be handy to have a written document that compiles the essence of the many short messages that appear in digital media, and where such news can get a more rigid presentation. We plan to provide this Newsletter on a regular basis in future. The contents of the SICAMM Newsletter will also be uploaded on the new SICAMM website. **We welcome contributions from members.** Please email to: newsletter@sicamm.inf

8. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SICAMM TEAMS

We are currently in the process of organizing SICAMM teams to achieve tasks on relevant topics. So far, we have suggested the formation of the following task teams as listed below. If you are interested in joining any of these teams or in founding another task team, you are welcome to email teams@sicamm.info We will get back to you for further discussion.

Team Conservation, whose purpose is to deal with conservation strategies. Current composition of the Conservation Team: Coordinator: Dr. Laima Blažytė-Čereškien (LT). Other members: John Greenaway (IE), Jo Widdicombe (UK), Dr. Gabriele Soland (CH), Vincent Douarre (FR).



Team Campaign, whose purpose is to lobby for Amm and sustainable bee management, and to distribute information about Amm to a broader audience (non-SICAMM members, authorities, participants at conferences and workshops, etc.), as well as to apply for financial support for useful projects.



Team Conference, whose purpose is to organize the biennial international conference. The team is always composed of members from the SICAMM Main Board and the local organizers. For the year 2025, the local organizers will be the Norwegian Amm Association, the Norsk Brunbielag.



Team Identification of honey bee lines (genetics and conservation), no team has yet been formed around this. The formation of this will be further discussed during the SICAMM Conference 2025.



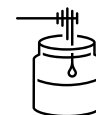
Bee health – biology and ecological aspects of bee diseases for beekeepers – to be implemented in local bee keeping and breeding.



Team SICAMM history documentary, whose purpose is to compile the history and biology of Amm and the members of SICAMM. Current team composition: Dr. Natuschka Lee (SE) and Sc. Maria Anna B. Bu (NO).



Team Bee products, whose purpose is to discuss and explore the quality of Amm bee products. For example, some of our current country members have managed to create a specific label to indicate that the honey was produced by Amm bees. We are currently exploring whether it would be possible to create a unified SICAMM Amm bee product label.



From left to right different Amm labels:

Switzerland, marketed as slow food. Source: COOP, CH.

Sweden. Source: Föreningen Nordbi, <https://www.nordbi.se/>

Ireland: Source: NIHBS <https://nihbs.org/product/honey-label/>



9. SICAMM DIGITAL APPEARANCES

SICAMM websites:

- SICAMM and conference website: <https://sicamm.org/>

Email addresses:

- SICAMM vice president: j.greenaway@sicamm.org
- For administrative issues: info@sicamm.org
- For general information: info@sicamm.info
- For information about the SICAMM conference: conference@sicamm.info
- For information about the Newsletter: newsletter@sicamm.info
- For information about specific task teams: teams@sicamm.info

SICAMM digital appearance:

- SICAMM WhatsApp Conference 2025
- SICAMM WhatsApp Discussions

SICAMM - for native honey bees
WhatsApp-Gruppe



- Getting updated: Facebook, Instagram, Youtube platforms