



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 2: Feb 26 Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring & Summer Management

7:00 – 7:05 Announcements, Questions & Discussion Debbie McClelland

7:05 – 7:30 Lesson 2-1: Meet the Local Suppliers Bill Crocker

Local Beekeeping suppliers will introduce themselves and their services
(Agricultural Hall, Beekeepers Warehouse, Crystal Bee, New England Beekeeping Supplies)

7:30 – 7:40 Lesson 2-2: Locating Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment And Bees John Lynch

Beekeeping Basics, Appendix E

- Mail order suppliers

7:40 – 8:10 Lesson 2-3: Installing Package Bees Vin Gaglione

Beekeeping Basics Pages 13-17

- When the package arrives
- Hive preparation
- Installing bees
- Installing the Queen
- Feeding the newly installed bees

8:10 – 8:30 BREAK

8:30 – 8:50 Lesson 2-4: Spring & Summer Mgmt of a New Colony, The First Year Peter Delaney

Beekeeping Basics Pages 25-30

- How to work the hive
- Evaluating colony conditions and population
- Feeding the colony
- Supering (adding boxes to the hive)

8:50 – 9:00 Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations Debbie McClelland

****Please bring small hammer & needle nose pliers to class next week.****



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 3: March 5 Equipment and Frame Night

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class: Building Your Own Equipment	Stan Sample
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hive Bodies, Frames & Foundation – An overview of options● Brief overview of industry standards for Langstroth hives● Assembling supers● Incorporating bee space in all designs	
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Debbie McClelland
7:05 – 7:25	Lesson 3-1: Assembling Frames	Stan Sample
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Frame assembly – Step-by-Step● Plastic Foundation	

****Please wait to assemble the frames****

7:25 – 7:35		BREAK
7:35 – 8:55	Lesson 3-2: Assembling Frames	Stan Sample
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wax foundation● Wiring the frame● Embedding the wire	

****Please wait to assemble the frames****

8:55–9:00	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Debbie McClelland
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Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 3-6 & 20-21 for next week's class.



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 4: March 12 - Bee Biology, Bee Culture & Apiary Set-up

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class - Record Keeping – An Overview	Kathy Balestrier
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Debbie McClelland
7:05 – 7:30	Lesson 4-1: Setting up an Apiary Location, Location, Location	Geoff Neale
	<i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 20-21</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Shelter concerns● Solar concerns● Topographical concerns● Human & Animal habitation concerns● Good Neighbor policy	
7:30 – 7:55	Lesson 4-2: Understanding Honeybee Behavior,	Cindy McDermott
	<i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 5-6</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bee Culture● Bees organization in the hive● Supersedure● Swarming● Bee space● Robbing	
7:55 – 8:05	BREAK	
8:05 – 8:15	Questions & Answers	Bee School Committee
8:15 – 8:50	Lesson 4-3: Understanding the Life Cycle of the Honeybee and Colony Organization	Ken Anderson
	<i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 3-6</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Types of Honeybees● Development of Honeybees (practical biology)● Contribution of Honeybees	
8:50–9:00	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Debbie McClelland

****Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 30-39 for next week's class****



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 5: March 19 Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class -- Making Mead (Honey Wine)	Stan Sample
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Debbie McClelland
7:05 – 7:50	Lesson 5-1: Fall and Winter Management	Joe Gaglione
	<i>(Beekeeping Basics Pages 31-39)</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evaluating colony condition & population● Evaluating food stores● Feeding colonies● Protecting colonies from the elements● Requeening a colony	
7:50 – 8:00	BREAK	
8:00 – 8:10	Questions and Answers	Bee School Committee
8:10 – 8:55	Lesson 5-2: Spring & Summer Management, Overwintered Hives	Rick Reault
	<i>(Beekeeping Basics Pages 30-31)</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Late Winter inspection of food stores● Early Spring inspection of food stores● Spring evaluation and inspection● Swarm prevention	
8:55–9:00	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Debbie McClelland

Please read Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61 & 94-97 for next week's class



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 6: Mar 26 - Pests and Disease

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class: State Beekeeping Laws	Dr. Kim Skyrn
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Debbie McClelland
7:05 – 7:15	Lesson 6-1: Learning through Organizations and Bee Associations <i>(Beekeeping Basics Pages 94-97)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web sites• Organizations & Sources of Information	Alison Galati
7:15 – 7:55	Lesson 6-2: Bee Pests, Parasite and Diseases <i>(Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracheal mites & Varroa mites• Animal pests• Comb damaging moths• Minor insect pests• Small hive beetles• Symptoms of brood disease	Randy Johnson
7:55 – 8:05	BREAK	
8:05 – 8:15	Questions & Answers	Bee School Committee
8:15 – 8:50	Lesson 6-3: Identifying & Controlling Honeybee Diseases <i>(Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brood diseases• Fungus diseases• Non-infectious diseases• Chilled brood• Adult honeybee diseases• Applying mite pesticide• Integrated Pest Management (IPM)• Proper use of medications+	Bill Hamilton
8:50 – 9:00	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Debbie McClelland

****Please read Beekeeping Basics Pages 23-24 & 73-77 for next week****



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 7: April 2 Pollination & Nectar Sources, Working the Honeybees

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class: Alternative Beehives	Mel Gadd
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Debbie McClelland
7:05 – 7:40	Lesson 7-1: Needs of Honeybees	Glenn Blakney Julie Rogers

(*Beekeeping Basics Pages 73-77*)

- Nectar, Pollen, Propolis and Water as life sustaining materials
- Forage plants
- Nectar & Pollen producing plants useful to honeybees
- Evaluation of your apiary for Honeybee forage

7:40 – 7:50	Lesson 7-2: Beekeepers' Calendar	Alison Galati
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review of Beekeeping Tasks● Activity Timeline	

7:50 – 8:00 BREAK: SIGN UP FOR HIVE OPENING VISITS AT MEMBERS' APIARIES

8:00 – 8:50	Lesson 7-3: Working with Honeybees	Cindy McDermott
	(<i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 23-24</i>)	

- Equipment for the work
- Procedure for the work
- Purpose for the work

8:55-9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations Debbie McClelland

Please read Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73 & 78-79 for next week

****BRING VEILS FOR NEXT WEEK****

***** BEE PACKAGES SHOULD ARRIVE MID APRIL *****

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES –

Saturday, April 13 & Sunday April 14 Easter

You will travel to a beekeepers apiary where you will participate in opening a hive for inspection
Bring your beekeepers veil. Locations to be announced and directions given.



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 8: April 9 - Honey and other products from the Hive

- 6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class (6:30 PM) Live Bee package installation Rick Reault**
(Location on Fair Grounds to be announced + bring protective veils)
- 7:00 – 7:05 Announcements, Questions & Discussion Debbie McClelland**
- 7:05 – 7:35 Lesson 8-1: Products from the Hive & Other Reasons to Keep Honeybees Glenn Blakney & Julie Rogers**
(*Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73*)
- Beeswax
 - Pollination
 - Propolis
 - Pollen
 - Bee venom (apitherapy)
- 7:35 – 7:45 Lesson 8-2: Review of Package Installation Rick Reault**
- 7:45 – 7:55 BREAK: SIGN UP FOR HIVE OPENING VISITS AT MEMBER'S APIARIES**
- 7:55 – 8:05 Questions & Answers Bee School Committee**
- 8:05 – 8:55 Lesson 8-3: Harvesting & Processing the Honey Crop Nancy Mangion**
(*Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73 & 78-79*)
- Mechanical methods for removing bees from supers
 - Chemical methods for removing bees from supers
 - Equipment for extracted honey production
 - Processing extracted honey
 - Processing cut-comb honey
 - Processing comb honey
- 8:55 – 9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations Debbie McClelland**

*****BEE PACKAGES SHOULD ARRIVE MID APRIL*****

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARY'S –

Saturday, **April 13** & Sunday **April 14 Easter**

You will travel to a beekeeper's apiary where you will participate in opening a hive for inspection
Bring your beekeepers veil. Locations to be announced and directions given.



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2019

SESSION 9: April 16 - Wrap Up & Graduation

6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class: Lighting Your Smoker

Geoff Neale

7:00 – 7:05 Announcements, Questions & Discussion

Debbie McClelland

7:05 – 7:50 Lesson 9-1: Review, Questions & Answers

**Bee School Committee
& ECBA Members**

- Hive Opening Experience
- Highlight of Critical Points
- Installing of Package Bees

7:50 – 8:05 BREAK

8:05 – 8:15 Course Evaluation

8:15 – 9:00 Graduation Ceremony & Raffle of Beekeeping Products!

GRADUATION CEREMONY

