



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 1: February 20 – Beekeeping History, Equipment & Clothing

7:00 – 7:05 pm	President's Welcome	Kathy Galucci, ECBA President
7:05 – 7:15 pm	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction, class logistics and announcements<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECBA – review of membership form• Pre-classes▪ Beehives, Beekeeping, Langstroth Hive▪ Discussion of course syllabus and course materials▪ Beekeeping Basics – importance of reading the book▪ Mosquito Spraying Opt Out	Alison Galati, Bee School Chairperson
7:15 – 7:45 pm	Lesson 1-1: Surveying the History of the Beehive <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beehives & Beekeeping▪ Langstroth and his Beehive	Alison Galati
7:45 – 7:55 pm	BREAK	
7:55 – 8:05 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:05 – 8:30 pm	Lesson 1-2: Understanding the Modern Beehive <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 2-6</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Components of the Modern Beehive	Peter Delaney
8:30 – 8:50 pm	Lesson 1-3: Beekeeping Equipment <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 11-12</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protective clothing for working with bees▪ Tools for working with bees	Stephanie Williams
8:50 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion & Evaluations <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meet the suppliers next week....Get ready to place your orders for bee packages!▪ Read <i>Beekeeping Basics pages 13-23 & pages 25-30 & Appendix E</i>	Alison Galati



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 2: February 27 - Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring & Summer Management

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class – State Beekeeping Laws	Kim Skyrn
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:30 pm	Lesson 2-1: Meet the Local Suppliers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Beekeeping suppliers will introduce themselves and their services	Alison Galati
7:30 – 7:40 pm	Lesson 2-2: Locating Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment And Bees <i>Beekeeping Basics, Appendix E</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mail order suppliers	John Lynch
7:40 – 8:10 pm	Lesson 2-3: Installing Package Bees <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 13-17</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">When the package arrivesHive preparationInstalling beesInstalling the QueenFeeding the newly installed bees	Rick Reault
8:10 – 8:20 pm	BREAK	
8:20 - 8:30 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:30 – 8:55 pm	Lesson 2-4: Spring & Summer Management of a New Colony, The First Year <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 25-30</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">How to work the hiveEvaluating colony conditions and populationFeeding the colonySupering (adding boxes to the hive)	Craig Story
8:55 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati

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



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 3: March 6 – Equipment and Frame Night

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class Building your own equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hive bodies, Frames & Foundation – An Overview of Options▪ Brief overview of industry standards for Lanstroth hives▪ Assembling supers▪ Incorporating bee space in all designs	Peter Delaney
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:25 pm	Lesson 3-1: Assembling Frames <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Frame assembly – Step-by-step▪ Plastic Foundation Please wait to assemble the frames	Peter Delaney
7:25 – 7:35 pm	BREAK	
7:35 – 8:55 pm	Continuation of Lesson 3-1 Assembling Frames <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wax foundation▪ Wiring The frame▪ Embedding the wire Please wait to assemble the frames	Peter Delaney
8:55 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati

Read *Beekeeping Basics Pages 3-6 & 20-21* for next week's class.



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 4: March 13 - Bee Biology, Bee Culture & Apiary Set-up

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class - Record Keeping	Gretel Clark
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:30 pm	Lesson 4-1: Setting up an Apiary Location, Location, Location <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	Geoff Neale
7:30 – 7:55 pm	Lesson 4-2: Understanding Honeybee Behavior, Bee Culture <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 5-6</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bees organization in the hive▪ Supersedure▪ Swarming▪ Bee space▪ Robbing	Ken Anderson
7:55 – 8:05 pm	BREAK	
8:05 – 8:15 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:15 – 8:50 pm	Lesson 4-3: Understanding the Life Cycle of the Honeybee and Colony Organization <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 3-6</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Types of Honeybees▪ Development of Honeybees (practical biology)▪ Contribution of Honeybees	Ken Anderson
8:50 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati

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



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 5: March 20 - Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:50 pm	Lesson 5-1: Fall and Winter Management <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	Joe Gaglione
7:50 – 8:00 pm	BREAK	
8:00 – 8:10 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:10 – 8:55 pm	Lesson 5-2: Spring & Summer Management Overwintered Hives <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	Dan Philips
8:55 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati

Read *Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61 & 94-97* for next week's class



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 6: March 27 - Pests and Disease

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class – Beekeeping Gadgets	Mike Garvey
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:15 pm	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 pm	Lesson 6-2: Bee Pests, Parasite and Diseases <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brood diseases▪ Symptoms of brood disease▪ What is a Varroa Mite, and how did they end up here (in the US and in my hive)?▪ How to know if your hive has varroa mites▪ Applying mite pesticide▪ Integrated Pest Management (IPM)▪ Proper use of medications	Bill Hamilton
7:55 – 8:05 pm	BREAK	
8:05 – 8:15 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:15 – 8:50 pm	Lesson 6-3: Identifying & Controlling Honeybee Diseases <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-61</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tracheal mites & Varroa mites▪ Animal pests▪ Comb damaging moths (Wax moths)▪ Minor insect pests▪ Small hive beetles▪ Fungus diseases▪ Non-infectious diseases▪ Chilled brood▪ Adult honeybee diseases	Randy Johnson
8:50 -9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

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



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 7: April 3 - Pollination & Nectar Sources, Working the Honeybees

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class – Alternative Beehives	Mel Gadd
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:40 pm	Lesson 7-1: Needs of Honeybees <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 73-77</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	Alison Galati
7:40 – 7:50 pm	Lesson 7-2: Beekeepers' Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review of Beekeeping Tasks▪ Activity Timeline	Alison Galati
7:50 – 8:00 pm	BREAK - SIGN UP FOR HIVE OPENING VISITS AT MEMBER'S APIARIES	
8:00 – 8:10 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:10 – 8:50 pm	Lesson 7-3: Working with Honeybees <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 23-24</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equipment for the work▪ Procedure for the work▪ Purpose for the work▪	Chris Delaney
8:50 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations **Read <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73 & 78-79</i> for next week**	Alison Galati

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

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

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES –

Saturday, April 14 & Sunday April 15

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



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 8: April 10 - Honey and other products from the Hive

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class - Live Bee package installation Location on Topsfield Fair Grounds. Bring protective veils	Rick Reault
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:35 pm	Lesson 8-1: Products from the Hive Other Reasons to Keep Honeybees <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beeswax▪ Pollination▪ Propolis▪ Pollen▪ Bee venom (apitherapy)	Dave Mansur
7:35 – 7:45 pm	Lesson 8-2: Review of Package Installation	Rick Reault
7:45 – 7:55 pm	BREAK - SIGN UP FOR HIVE OPENING VISITS AT MEMBER'S APIARIES	
7:55 - 8:050 pm	Q&A	Bee School Committee
8:05 – 8:55 pm	Lesson 8-3: Harvesting & Processing the Honey Crop <i>Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-73 & 78-79</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	Nancy Mangion
8:55 – 9:00 pm	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Alison Galati

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

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARY'S – **Saturday, April 14 & Sunday April 15**

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



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter / Spring 2018

SESSION 9: April 17 - Wrap Up & Graduation

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pre-Class – Lighting your Smoker	Geoff Neale
7:00 – 7:05 pm	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Alison Galati
7:05 – 7:50 pm	Review & Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hive Opening Experience▪ Highlight of Critical Points▪ Installing of Package Bees	Bee School Committee
7:50 – 8:05 pm	BREAK	
8:05 – 8:15 pm	Course Evaluation & ECBA Membership form completion	
8:15 – 9:00 pm	Graduation Ceremony & Raffle of products donated by Bee Suppliers	Bee School Committee

