



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2020

- SESSION 1: Feb 18** **Beekeeping History, Equipment & Clothing**
- 7:00** **President's Welcome,** **Linda Boylan, ECBA President**
- 7:05 – 7:15** **Administration:** **Randy Johnson, Bee School Chairperson**
- Introduction, class logistics and announcements
 - Discussion of course syllabus and course materials
 - Mosquito Spraying Opt Out
- 7:15 – 7:45** **Lesson 1-1: Surveying the History of the Beehive** **Sid Balestrier**
Beekeeping for Dummies Selecting a Hive: Ch 4, pgs 65-67; pgs 86-91
- Beehives & Beekeeping
 - Langstroth and His Beehive
- 7:45 – 7:55** **BREAK**
- 7:55 – 8:05** **Questions & Answers** **Bee School Committee**
- 8:05 – 8:30** **Lesson 1-2: Understanding the Modern Beehive** **Peter Delaney**
Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 5 Pages 85-93
- Components of the Modern Beehive
- 8:30 – 8:50** **Lesson 1-3: Beekeeping Equipment** **Stephanie Williams**
Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 5; Pgs 110-120
- Protective clothing for working with bees
 - Tools for working with bees
- 8:50 – 9:00** **Announcements, Questions & Discussion & Evaluations** **Randy Johnson**
- Meet the suppliers next week....Think about bee orders!

Read Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 6, pgs 121-140; 170-185; 399-412 for next week's class



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SESSION 2: Feb 25 Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring & Summer Management

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion Randy Johnson

6:35 – 7:20 Pre-Class—Dr. Kym Skyrn, MA Chief Apiary Inspector

- State Beekeeping Laws

7:20 – 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, Beverly Bees)

7:30 – 7:35 Lesson 2-2: Locating Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment and Bees John Lynch

Beekeeping for Dummies, Appendix A; pgs 399-412

- Mail order suppliers
- Ordering bees
- Specific for New England

7:35 – 8:15 Lesson 2-3: Installing Package Bees Vin Gaglione

Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 6; Pages 128-140

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

8:15 – 8:30 BREAK

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

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 170-185

- 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 Randy Johnson

Next week's class starts at 6:30

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



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SESSION 3: March 3 Equipment and Frame Night

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion Randy Johnson

6:35 – 7:05 Building Your Own Equipment Stan Sample

- Hive Bodies, Frames & Foundation – An overview of options
- Brief overview of industry standards for Langstroth hives
- Assembling supers
- Incorporating bee space in all designs

7:05 – 7:25 Lesson 3-1: Assembling Frames Stan Sample

- Frame assembly – Step-by-Step
- Plastic Foundation. All types

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

7:25 – 7:35 BREAK

7:35 – 8:55 Lesson 3-2: Assembling Frames Stan Sample

- Wax foundation
- Wiring the frame
- Embedding the wire

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

8:55–9:00 Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations Randy Johnson

Read Beekeeping for Dummies; Pgs 27-48; 56-64 for next week's class.



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SESSION 4: March 10 - Bee Biology, Bee Culture & Apiary Set-up

6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class - Apitherapy

Bryn Clark

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

Randy Johnson

7:05 – 7:30 Lesson 4-1: Setting up an Apiary

Geoff Neale

Location, Location, Location

Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 3 pgs 56-64

- Shelter concerns
- Solar concerns
- Topographical concerns
- Human & Animal habitation concerns
- Good Neighbor policy

7:30 – 7:55 Lesson 4-2: Understanding Honeybee Behavior,

Ken Anderson

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 27-43

- Honey Bee Development
- Castes
- Communication-briefly von Frisch but mainly pheromones and queen's role
- Division of Labor
- Life Cycle (Bee Math)

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

Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 2; Pgs 43-48

- Bee Math Review-Practical Applications
- why we need to know these timing factors
- queen and primary swarm emergence
- brood presence (or not) for treatment efficacy
- put in practice (I have capped brood, but no eggs....)
- Other Stinging Insects

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

Randy Johnson

****Read *Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 9* for next week's class****



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SESSION 5: March 17 Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class -- Making Mead (Honey Wine) pg 367	Stan Sample
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Randy Johnson
7:05 – 7:50	Lesson 5-1: Fall and Winter Management	Joe Gaglione

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 186-192

- 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

Beekeeping for Dummies Pgs 183-185; 193-196

- 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	Randy Johnson
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Next week's class starts at 6:30

****Please read *Beekeeping for Dummies* Ch 12 & 13 for next week's class****



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SESSION 6: Mar 24 - Pests and Disease

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion

Randy Johnson

6:35 – 6:45 Lesson 6-1: Learning through Organizations and Bee Associations

Peter Richards

Beekeeping for Dummies Appendix A Page 399-404

- Web sites
- Organizations & Sources of Information

6:45 – 7:15 Lesson 6-2: Bee Pests, Parasite and Diseases

Bill Hamilton

Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 13

- Animal pests
- Comb damaging moths
- Minor insect pests; yellow jackets
- Small hive beetles

7:15 – 7:30

BREAK

7:30 – 7:40 Questions & Answers

Bee School Committee

7:40 – 8:50 Lesson 6-3: Identifying & Controlling Honeybee Diseases

Bill Hamilton

Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 12

- Brood diseases
- Fungus diseases
- Non-infectious diseases
- Chilled brood
- Adult honeybee diseases
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Tracheal mites, Varroa mites
- Proper use of medications
- How to do an alcohol wash
- What do the numbers mean?
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8:50 – 9:00 Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations

Randy Johnson

***Please read Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 362-365, 160, 413, Ch 7; Ch 8
re-read/review Ch 5 for next week***



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SESSION 7: March 31 Pollination & Nectar Sources, Working the Honeybees

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class: Lighting Your Smoker	Geoff Neale
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Randy Johnson
7:05 – 7:40	Lesson 7-1: Needs of Honeybees	Glenn Blakney

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 362-365

- 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	Kathy Balestrier
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Beekeeping for Dummies Pgs 160, 413

- Record Keeping
- Review of Beekeeping Tasks
- Activity Timeline

7:50 – 8:00	BREAK : SIGN UP FOR HIVE OPENING VISITS AT MEMBERS' APIARIES	
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8:00 – 8:50	Lesson 7-3: Working with Honeybees	Julie Crocker
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Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 5, Ch 7, Ch 8

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

8:55-9:00	Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations	Randy Johnson
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Please read Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 368-377, Ch 17 for next week

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

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

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES – Saturday, April 11 & Sunday April 12 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.



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SESSION 8: April 7- Honey and Other Products From the Hive

6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class Live Bee Package Installation Rick Reault
(Location on Fair Grounds to be announced + bring protective veils)

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

7:05 – 7:35 Lesson 8-1: Products from the Hive & Other Reasons to Keep Honeybees
Deb McClelland

Beekeeping for Dummies Pgs 368-377

- 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 for Dummies Ch 17

- 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 Randy Johnson

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

**WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARY'S –
Saturday, April 11 & Sunday April 12 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.



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SESSION 9: April 14 - Wrap Up & Graduation

6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class: Alternative Beehives

Mel Gadd

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

Randy Johnson

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

