



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2021

SESSION 1: February 16--Beekeeping History, Equipment & Clothing

7:00 President's Welcome, Linda Boylan, ECBA President

7:05 – 7:15 Administration: Glenn Blakney, 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 Mike Garvey

Beekeeping for Dummies 4th edition Selecting a Hive, Ch 4 (4), Pages 65-67 (67-69)

Use the page numbers in bold for the 5th edition

- Beehives & Beekeeping
- Langstroth and His Beehive

7:45 – 7:50 BREAK

7:50 – 8:00 Questions & Answers Bee School Committee

8:00 – 8:30 Lesson 1-2: Understanding the Modern Beehive Chris Delaney

Beekeeping for Dummies: Basic Equipment for Beekeepers, Chapter 5 (5),

Pages 85-93 (91-99)

- Components of the Modern Beehive

8:30 – 8:50 Lesson 1-3: Beekeeping Equipment Stephanie Williams

Beekeeping for Dummies, Chapter 5, Pages 110-120 (118-129)

- Protective clothing for working with bees
- Tools for working with bees

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

- Meet the suppliers next week...Think about bee orders!

*Read Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 6 (6), Pages 121-140 (131-151) 170-181(181-192);
399-412 (417-436) for next week's class*

SESSION 2 : February 23--Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring & Summer Management

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

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

- State Beekeeping Laws

7:20 – 7:35 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)

Beekeeping for Dummies, Appendix A, Pages 399-412 (417-436)

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

7:35 – 8:10 Lesson 2-2: Installing Package Bees Vin Gaglione

Beekeeping for Dummies, Chapter 6 (6), Pages 128-141 (139-152)

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

8:10 – 8:15

8:15 – 8:25

**BREAK
QUESTIONS**

8:25 – 8:50 Lesson 2-3: Spring & Summer Mgmt of a New Colony, The First Year Peter Delaney

Beekeeping for Dummies Chapter 8: Pages 170-181 (181-192)

- 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 Glenn Blakney

SESSION 3: March 2--Equipment and Frame Night

7:00 – 7:10	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Glenn Blakney
7:10 – 7:40	Building Your Own Equipment <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	Stan Sample
7:40 – 8:00	Lesson 3-1: Assembling Frames <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frame assembly – Step-by-Step• Plastic Foundation. All types	Stan Sample
8:00 – 8:05		BREAK
8:05 – 8:15		QUESTIONS
8:15 – 8:55	Lesson 3-2: Assembling Frames <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wax foundation• Wiring the frame• Embedding the wire	Stan Sample
8:55–9:00	Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations	Glenn Blakney

Read Beekeeping for Dummies, Pages 27-48 (27-48); 56-64 (57-65) for next week's class.

SESSION 4: March 9--Bee Biology, Bee Culture & Apiary Set-up

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

7:05 – 7:30 Lesson 4-1: Setting up an Apiary Geoff Neale
Location, Location, Location

Beekeeping for Dummies, Chapter 3 (3), Pages 56-64 (57-65)

- 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, Chapter 2(2), Pages 27-43 (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 – 8:00 BREAK

8:00 – 8:10 QUESTIONS

8:10 – 8:50 Lesson 4-3: Understanding the Life Cycle of the Honeybee and Colony Organization Ken Anderson

Beekeeping for Dummies, Chapter 2(2), Pages 43-48 (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 Glenn Blakney

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

SESSION 5: March 16--Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

6:30 – 7:00 Pre-Class Making Mead (Honey Wine) pg 366-367 (382-385) Stan Sample

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

7:05 – 7:55 Lesson 5-1: Fall and Winter Management Joe Gaglione

Beekeeping for Dummies, Chapter 9 (9), Pages 186-192 (196-202)

- Evaluating colony condition & population
- Evaluating food stores
- Feeding colonies
- Protecting colonies from the elements
- Requeening a colony

7:55 – 8:00

BREAK

8:00 – 8:10

QUESTIONS

8:10 – 8:55 Lesson 5-2: Spring & Summer Management, Overwintered Hives Rick Reault

Beekeeping for Dummies Pgs 183-185 (193-195) 193-196 (203-206)

- 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 Glenn Blakney

Next week's class starts at 6:30

****Please read Beekeeping for Dummies Chapters 12(12) & 13(13) for next week's class****

SESSION 6: March 23--Pests and Disease

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

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

Beekeeping for Dummies Appendix A Pages 399-404 (417-423)

- Web sites
- Organizations & Sources of Information

6:45 – 7:20 Lesson 6-2: Bee Pests, Parasite and Diseases Bill Hamilton

Beekeeping for Dummies Chapter 13 (13)

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

7:20 – 7:25

BREAK

7:25 – 7:35

QUESTIONS

7:35 – 8:50 Lesson 6-3: Identifying & Controlling Honeybee Diseases Bill Hamilton

Beekeeping for Dummies Chapter 12 (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 (Demonstration)
- What do the numbers mean?

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

***Please read Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 362-365 (378-382), 160 (171), 413 (437), Chapter 7 (7); Chapter 8 (8)*

*re-read/review Chapter 5(5) for next week***

SESSION 7: March 30 Pollination & Nectar Sources, Working the Honeybees

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

7:00 – 7:05 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Glenn Blakney**

7:05 – 7:20 Lesson 7-1: Needs of Honeybees **Glenn Blakney**

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 362-365 (378-382)

- 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

7:20 – 7:55 Lesson 7-2: Beekeepers' Calendar **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 160 (171), 413 (437)

- Record Keeping
- Review of Beekeeping Tasks
- Activity Timeline

7:55 – 8:00 **BREAK**

8:00 – 8:10 **QUESTIONS**

8:10 – 8:50 Lesson 7-3: Working with Honeybees **Julie Crocker**

Beekeeping for Dummies Chapters 5 (5) 7(7), and 8 (8)

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

8:50-9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations **Glenn Blakney**

Please read Beekeeping for Dummies, Pages 368-377(385-396), Chapter 17 (17) for next week

*****BEE PACKAGES SHOULD ARRIVE EARLY APRIL THROUGH THE MONTH INTO EARLY MAY*****

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES –

Saturday, April 10 & Sunday April 11 (Easter = 4/4)

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

SESSION 8: April 6--Products from the Hive, Harvesting and Processing the Honey Crop, Installing a Package of Bees

6:30 – 7:00	Pre-Class Live Bee Package Installation (Location on Fair Grounds to be announced + bring protective veils)	Rick Reault
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements, Questions & Discussion	Glenn Blakney
7:05 – 7:35	Lesson 8-1: Products from the Hive	Peter Richards

Beekeeping for Dummies Pages 368-377 (385-396)

- Beeswax
- Pollination
- Propolis
- Pollen
- Bee venom (Apitherapy)

7:35 – 7:50	Lesson 8-2: Review of Package Installation	Rick Reault
7:50 – 7:55		BREAK
7:55 – 8:05		QUESTIONS

8:05 – 8:55	Lesson 8-3: Harvesting & Processing the Honey Crop	Cindi McDermott
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Beekeeping for Dummies Ch 17 (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	Glenn Blakney
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SESSION 9: April 13--Wrap Up & Graduation

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

Mel Gadd

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

Glenn Blakney

7:05 – 7:55 Lesson 9-1: Review, Questions & Answers

**Bee School Committee
& ECBA Members**

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

7:55 – 8:00

BREAK

8:05 – 8:15 Course Evaluation

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

GRADUATION CEREMONY

