



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2023

SESSION 1: February 21--Beekeeping Basics, Equipment & Clothing

7:00 President's Welcome,

Kathy Balestrier
ECBA President

7:05 – 7:10 Administration

Kaitlyn Stanhope,
Bee School Chair

- Introduction, class logistics and announcements
- Discussion of course syllabus and course materials
- Mosquito Spraying Opt Out

7:10 – 7:55 Lesson 1-1: Honey Bee Basics

Ellen Garvey

7:55 – 8:05 BREAK

8:05 – 8:35 Lesson 1-2: Understanding the Modern Beehive

Chris Delaney

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 7 - 10

- Components of the Modern Beehive

8:35 – 8:55 Lesson 1-3: Beekeeping Equipment

Stéphanie Williams

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 11 - 12

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

8:55 – 9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations

Kaitlyn Stanhope

- Suppliers and supplies discussion next week...Think about bee orders!

- **Next week's class starts at 6:30**

Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 9-11, 19

and Appendix E for next week's class

SESSION 2 : February 28--Beekeeping Supplies : Bees, Equipment, Hives. Mentoring

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

6:35 – 6:55 Lesson 2-1: Ordering Supplies **John Lynch**

Beekeeping Basics, Page 11, Appendix E

- Local and on-line order suppliers
- What you need to buy for your first year of beekeeping

6:55 – 7:15 Lesson 2-2: Ordering Bees **Pete Delaney**

Beekeeping Basics, Page 19

- Package Bees vs Nucleus Colonies
- Honey bee subspecies (eg Italian, Russian, Carniolan, etc)

7:15 – 7:35 Lesson 2-3: Assembling Your Own Equipment (Boxes) **Pete Delaney**

- Assembling hive bodies

7:35 – 7:45 BREAK

7:45 – 7:55 QUESTIONS

7:55-8:30: Lesson 2-4: Frames and Installing Foundation **Tony Pulsone**

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 9 - 10

- Frames, wood & plastic
- Wax and wire; wax on plastic; BetterComb
- Wiring the frame
- Embedding the wire

8: 30-8:50: Lesson 2-5: Mentoring **Sam Hamlin**

- Importance of having a support team
- Range of support options
- Benefits of having a mentor
- Introduction of mentors
- Sign-up details

8:50 – 9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

• **Next week's class starts at 7:00**

Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 13-19, 23, 24, 37-30, 39-40

SESSION 3: March 7—Installing Packages, Spring and Summer Management, Calendar and Recordkeeping

7:00 – 7:05 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

7:05 – 7:50: Lesson 3-1: Installing Package Bees **Joe Gaglione**

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 13-19

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

7:50 – 8:20 Lesson 3-2: Spring & Summer Mgmt of a New Colony, The First Year **Pete Delaney**

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 23, 24, 27-30

8:20 – 8:30 BREAK

8:30 – 8:50 Lesson 3-3: Beekeeping Calendar & Recordkeeping **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 39-40

- Work as the season progresses
- How to record your colonies' status and progress—find the style that works for you

8:50-9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

Next week's optional topic starts at 6:30

Read Beekeeping Basics, Pages 2-6, 20-22 for next week's class

SESSION 4: March 14—Apiary Set-up, Bee Culture & Bee Biology

6:30-7:00: Optional: Alternative Beehives

Kathy Gallucci

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

Kaitlyn Stanhope

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

Geoff Neale

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 20-22

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

7:30 – 7:55 Lesson 4-2: Understanding Honey Bee Behavior

Ken Anderson

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 2-6

- 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 – 8:10 QUESTIONS

8:10 – 8:50 Lesson 4-3: Understanding the Life Cycle of the Honey Bee and Colony Organization

Ken Anderson

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 3-6

- 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, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations

Kaitlyn Stanhope

Next week's optional topic starts at 6:30

Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 25-26 and 31-39 for next week's class

SESSION 5: March 21--Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

6:30 – 7:00 Optional: Making Mead (Honey Wine)

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

Kaitlyn Stanhope

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

Joe Gaglione

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 31-39

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

7:55 – 8:05 BREAK

8:05 – 8:10 QUESTIONS

8:10 – 8:55 Lesson 5-2: Management of Overwintered Hives

Rick Reault

Beekeeping Basics Pages 25-26, 39

- Late Winter inspection of food stores
- Early Spring inspection of food stores
- Spring evaluation and inspection
- Swarm prevention

8:55–9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations

Kaitlyn Stanhope

Next week's class starts at 6:30

****Read Beekeeping Basics, Appendix D and pages 41-61, 94-97 for next week's class****

SESSION 6: March 28--Pests and Disease

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

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

Beekeeping Basics Appendix D, Pages 94-97

- Web sites
- Organizations & Sources of Information

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

Beekeeping Basics Pages 54-61

- 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 Honey Bee Diseases **Bill Hamilton**

Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-54

- Varroa mites
- How to do an alcohol wash (Demonstration)
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Brood diseases
- Fungus diseases
- Viral diseases
- Non-infectious diseases
- Chilled brood
- Adult honey bee diseases
- Proper use of medications
- What do the numbers mean?

8:50 – 9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

Next week's class starts at 6:30

Please read Beekeeping Basics Pages 48-53, 80-81, 93**for next week

SESSION 7: April 4 Pollination & Nectar Sources, Mite Treatments

6:30 – 7:15 : Optional: State Apiary Laws and Regulations Dr. Kim Skyrn, MDAR
Chief Apiary Inspector

- State Beekeeping Laws

7:15 – 7:20 Announcements, Questions & Discussion Kaitlyn Stanhope

7:20 – 7:35 Lesson 7-1 Needs of Honey Bees Kathy Balestrier

Beekeeping Basics Pages 80-81

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

7:35 – 7:45 BREAK

7:45 – 7:55 QUESTIONS

7:55 – 8:50 Lesson 7-2: Mite Treatments Mike Garvey

Beekeeping Basics Pages 48-53, 93

- Treatments are complex: depend on temperature, season & colony status
- Effective treatment is key to colony survival

8:50 - 9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations Kaitlyn Stanhope

Please read Beekeeping Basics, Pages 62-72 for next week

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

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES (weather permitting)

Saturday, April 15 & Sunday April 16 (Easter = 4/9)

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.

Next week's class starts at 6:15

**Demonstration of bee package installation next week
You need to bring a veil to observe**

SESSION 8: April 11-- Installing a Package of Bees, Working the Honey Bees, Harvesting and Processing the Honey Crop,

6:15 – 6:20 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

6:20 – 6:50 Lesson 8-1 Live Bee Package Installation **Rick Reault**
(Location on Fair Grounds+ bring protective veils)

6:50 – 7:30 Lesson 8-2: Working with Honey Bees **Julie Crocker**

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

7:30 – 7:45 Lesson 8-3: Review of Package Installation **Rick Reault**

7:45 – 7:55 BREAK

7:55 – 8:05 QUESTIONS

8:05 – 8:50 Lesson 8-4: Harvesting & Processing the Honey Crop **Cindi McDermott**

Beekeeping Basics Pages 62-72

- 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

8:50 – 9:00 Announcements, Q & A, Raffle & Evaluations **Kaitlyn Stanhope**

Please read Beekeeping Basics, Pages 62-72 for next week

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SESSION 9: April 18 Smoker Lighting, Hive Inspection, History

- 6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion** **Kaitlyn Stanhope**
- 6:35 – 7:05 Lesson 9-1: Lighting Your Smoker** **Geoff Neale**
Beekeeping Basics, Pages 23
- 7:05 – 7:55 Lesson 9-2: Virtual “Hive Inspection: When Things Go Wrong”** **Jean Miller**
- 7:55 – 8:20 Lesson 9-3: Surveying the History of the Beehive** **Mike Garvey**
- 8:20 – 8:30 BREAK**
- 8:30 – 9:00 Review, Questions & Answers** **Bee School Committee & ECBA Members**
- Hive Opening Experience
 - Highlight of Critical Points
 - Installing of Package Bees

GRADUATION CEREMONY

