



Practical Beekeeping Syllabus Winter / Spring 2022

SESSION 1: February 15--Beekeeping Basics, Equipment & Clothing

7:00 President's Welcome,

**Larry Connors,
ECBA President**

7:05 – 7:10 Administration

**Peter Richards,
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: Honeybee Basics

Ellen Garvey

7:55 – 8:05 BREAK

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

Alison Galati

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 7 - 10

- Components of the Modern Beehive

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

Stephanie Williams

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 11 - 12

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

8:55 – 9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion & Evaluations Peter Richards

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

*Read Beekeeping Basics Pages 13-19, 23, 24, 27-30;
and Appendix E for next week's class*

SESSION 2 : February 22--Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring & Summer Management

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

7:05 – 7:20 Lesson 2-1: Meet the Local Suppliers Bill Crocker

Local Beekeeping suppliers will introduce themselves and their services (Agricultural Hall, Crystal Bee Supply, New England Beekeeping Supplies, Beverly Bees)

Beekeeping Basics, Appendix E, Page 98

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

7:20 – 8:05 Lesson 2-2: Installing Package Bees Vin Gaglione

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 13-19

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

8:05 – 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 Rich Girard

Beekeeping Basics Pages 23, 24, 27-30

- 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 Peter Richards

SESSION 3: March 1--Equipment and Frame Night

7:00 – 7:10 Announcements, Questions & Discussion

Peter Richards

7:10 – 7:40 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

7:40 – 8:00 Lesson 3-1: Assembling Frames

Stan Sample

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

8:00 – 8:10

BREAK

8:10 – 8:15

QUESTIONS

8:15 – 8:55 Lesson 3-2: Assembling Frames

Stan Sample

- Wax foundation
- Wiring the frame
- Embedding the wire

8:55–9:00 Announcements, Questions, Discussion & Evaluations Peter Richards

Next week's class starts at 6:30

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

SESSION 4: March 8--Bee Biology, Bee Culture & Apiary Set-up

6:30 – 6:35 Announcements, Questions & Discussion **Peter Richards**

6:35 – 7:05 Pre-Class: Alternative Beehives **Kathy Gallucci**

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

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 Honeybee 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 Honeybee and Colony Organization **Ken Anderson**

- 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 **Peter Richards**

****Read *Beekeeping Basics* Pages 25-26 and 31-38 for next week's class****

Next week's class starts at 6:30

SESSION 5: March 15--Management of Overwintered, Established Hives

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

6:35 – 7:05 Pre-Class Making Mead (Honey Wine) Stan Sample

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

Beekeeping Basics, Pages 31-38

- 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: Spring & Summer Management, Overwintered Hives Rick Reault

Beekeeping Basics Pgs 25-26

- 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 Peter Richards

Next week's class starts at 6:30

Please read Beekeeping Basics, Appendix D and pages 41-61 for next week's class

SESSION 6: March 22--Pests and Disease

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

**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 Honeybee Diseases Bill Hamilton

Beekeeping Basics Pages 41-54

- 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 Peter Richards

***Please read Beekeeping Basics Pages 39-40, 80-81
for next week***

Next week's class starts at 6:30

SESSION 7: March 29 Pollination & Nectar Sources, Working the Honeybees

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

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

- State Beekeeping Laws

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

Beekeeping Basics Pages 80-81

- 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

7:35 – 7:55 Lesson 7-2: Beekeepers' Calendar Kaitlyn Stanhope

Beekeeping Basics Pages 39-40

- Record Keeping
- Review of Beekeeping Tasks
- Activity Timeline

7:55 – 8:05 BREAK

8:05 – 8:10 QUESTIONS

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

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

8:50 - 9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations Peter Richards

Please read Beekeeping Basics, Pages 62-79 for next week

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

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS at MEMBER APIARIES

Saturday, April 9 & Sunday April 10 (Easter = 4/17)

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 6:30

SESSION 8: April 5--Products from the Hive, Harvesting and Processing the Honey Crop, Installing a Package of Bees

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

6:35 – 7:05 Pre-Class Live Bee Package Installation Rick Reault
(Location on Fair Grounds to be announced + bring protective veils)

7:05 – 7:35 Lesson 8-1: Products from the Hive Dave Mansur

Beekeeping Basics Pages 73-79

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

7:35 – 7:50 Lesson 8-2: Review of Package Installation Rick Reault

7:50 – 8:00 BREAK

8:00 – 8:05 QUESTIONS

8:05 – 8:55 Lesson 8-3: 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

8:55 – 9:00 Announcements, Questions & Discussion/Evaluations Peter Richards

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SESSION 9: April 12 Wrap Up & Graduation

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

Geoff Neale

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

Peter Richards

7:05 – 7:35 Lesson 9-1: Surveying the History of the Beehive

Mike Garvey

**7:35 – 8:00 Lesson 9-2: Review, Questions & Answers
& ECBA Members**

Bee School Committee

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

8:00 – 8:10

BREAK

8:10 – 8:15 Course Evaluation

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

GRADUATION CEREMONY

