

**Essex County Beekeepers' Association
Practical Beekeeping Syllabus
Winter/Spring 2010**

Session 1 - February 23– History/ Equipment and Clothing

President's Welcome

Phil or Jane
5 minutes

Introductions, Logistics, and Announcements
Discussion of Course Syllabus and course materials

Brian Glass
10 Minutes

Lesson 1-1:

Bill Denhard
30 Minutes

- Surveying the history of the beehive
- Primitive Beehives & Beekeeping
- Langstroth and his beehive

Break

20 minutes

Lesson 1-2: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 3)

Bill Bleem
25 Minutes

- Understanding the modern beehive
- Components of the modern beehive

Lesson 1-3: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 30-33)

Stephanie Williams

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

20 Minutes

Announcements, Questions & Discussion

5 Minutes

Note: Meet the Suppliers next week... Think about your bee orders!

Please read chapters 6, 8, 9, pages 34-35 and pages 169-180 for next week's class

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Session 2 – March 2 Meet The Supplier Night/ Spring and Summer Management

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm **TBD**

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons 5 Minutes

Lesson 2-1: Meet The Suppliers

Crystal Bee Supply (Vinnie) 5 Minutes

Beekeepers Warehouse (Nancy) 5 Minutes

New England Beekeeping (Rick) 5 minutes

**Lesson 2-2: Locating suppliers of beekeeping equipment and bees
(‘Beekeepers Handbook’, Pages 169-180) Dave Meldrum**

- Mail order suppliers 10 Minutes

Lesson 2-3: (‘Beekeepers Handbook’, Chapter 6) Tom Beaton

- Installing package bees 30 minutes

Break 15 Minutes

Lesson 2-4: (‘Beekeepers Handbook’, Chapters 8,9) Gary Dubois

- Spring/Summer Management of a new colony (**First Year**) 40 Minutes
- How to work the hive
- Evaluating colony condition/population
- Feeding
- Supering

Announcements, Questions & Discussion 5 Minutes

Please read chapter 3 and pages 27-29 for next week's class

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Session 3 – March 9 – Equipment and Frame Night

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons	5 Minutes
Lesson 3-1: Building your own equipment ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 3)	Randy Johnson
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hive Bodies, Frames & Foundation – An overview of options• Sampling homemade equipment• Following industry standards• Assembling of supers• Incorporating the bee space in all designs	20 Minutes
Break	15 minutes
Lesson 3-3: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 27-29)	Stan Sample
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembling Frames• Wax Foundation• Plastic Foundation	75 Minutes
Announcements, Questions & Discussion	5 Minutes
Please read chapters 1 and 2 and pages 35-39 for next week's class	

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Session 4 – March 16 – Bee Biology/ Hive Location

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm - **TBD**

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons 5 Minutes

Lesson 4-1: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapters 1-2)

Understanding the life cycle of the honeybee and colony organization

Vinnie Gaglione
45 Minutes

- Types of honeybees (castes)
- Development of honeybees (practical biology)
- Contribution of honey bees

Lesson4-2: Bee culture

Understanding Honeybee behavior

Dave Meldrum

- Bees organization in the hive
- Supersedure
- Swarming
- Bee space
- Robbing

25 Minutes

Break

20Minutes

Lesson4-2: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 35--39)

Setting up an apiary

Kate Jurczyk
Janet Platt
25 Minutes

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

Announcements, Questions & Discussion

5 Minutes

Please read chapters 8 and 9 for next week's class

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Session 5 – March 23 –Management of overwintered, established hives

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm **TBD**

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons 5 Minutes

Lesson 5-1: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapters 8, 9) **Gretel Clark**

Spring and summer management

- Late winter inspection of food stores 50 Minutes
- Early spring inspection of food stores
- Spring evaluation and inspection
- Swarm prevention

Break 20 Minutes

Lesson 5-2: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 8, 9) **Ben Chadwick**

Fall and winter management

- Requeening a colony 40 Minutes
- Evaluating colony condition/population
- Evaluating food stores
- Feeding colonies
- Protecting colonies from the elements

Announcements, Questions & Discussion 5 Minutes

Please read pages 169-180 and chapter 13 for next week's class

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Session 6 – March 30 – Pests and Diseases

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm – TBD
Announcements

5 Minutes

Lesson 6-1: ('Beekeepers Handbook', chapter 13)

Mike Bayko

Bee Pests, Parasites, and Diseases

30 Minutes

- Tracheal Mites and Varroa Mites
- Animal pests
- Comb-damaging moths
- Minor insect pests
- Small hive beetle

Lesson 6-2: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 169-180)

Chris Murphy

Learning through Organizations, Associations

10 Minutes

- Web Sites
- Organizations and sources of information
- Minor insect pests
- Symptoms of brood diseases

Break

20 minutes

Lesson 6-3: ('Beekeepers Handbook', chapter 13)

Rick Reault

Identifying and controlling honeybee diseases

45 minutes

- Brood diseases
- Fungus diseases
- Non-infectious diseases
- Chilled brood
- Adult honeybee diseases
- Applying pesticides
- Integrated Pest Management
- Proper use of medications

Announcements, Questions & Discussion

5 Minutes

Please read pages 121-122 and chapters 5, 7 and 14 for next week's class

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Session 7 – April 6 – Pollination and Nectar Sources

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm - **TBD**

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons 5 Minutes

Lesson 7-1: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 7, Pg. 121-122, Chapter 14)

**Jane Wild
Eric Josephson
35 Minutes**

Needs of Honeybees

- Nectar, Pollen, Propolis & water as a life sustaining material
- Forage Plants
- Nectar & Pollen producing plants useful to honeybees
- Evaluation of your apiary for honeybee forage

Lesson 7-2: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapters 8, 9)

**Bill Bleem
10 Minutes**

Beekeepers Calendar – Review of beekeeping tasks
Activity Timeline

Break/ Sign up for Hive Openings

25 minutes

Lesson 7-3: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 5)

**Peter Delaney
40 Minutes**

Working with honeybees

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

Announcements, Questions & Discussion

5 Minutes

Please read pages 75-81 and 118-123 for next week's class

WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS

You will travel to a beekeepers apiary where you will participate in opening a hive. Bring your veil.

- Hive Openings – Saturday, April 17
- Rain Date Sunday April 18th
- Locations to be announced

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Session 8 - April 13 – Honey and other products from the hive

Special Interest Session 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm - 'TBD'

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons 5 Minutes

Lesson 8-1: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 118-123) Dave Mansur

Other products from the hive. Other reasons to keep honeybees

- Beeswax 30 Minutes
- Pollination
- Pollen
- Propolis

Lesson 8-2 ('Beekeepers Handbook', Chapter 6) Tom Beaton
Review of package installation 15 Minutes

Break 15 minutes

Lesson 8-3: ('Beekeepers Handbook', Pages 75-81) Nancy Mangion

Harvesting and processing the honey crop

- Mechanical methods for removing bees from supers
- Chemical methods for removing bees from supers 50 Minutes
- Equipment for extracted honey production
- Processing extracted honey
- Processing cut-comb honey
- Processing comb honey

Announcements, Questions & Discussion 5 Minutes

Remember to bring your veil to the hive openings

***** Bee Packages should arrive around April 16 *****

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Session 9 - April 20 – Wrap up

Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last week's lessons

5 Minutes

Lesson 9-1:

Review hive opening experience

Review class

Highlight of critical points

Installing package bees

School Committee

Bee School Staff

40 Minutes

Break

15 minutes

Course evaluation

Raffle of products donated by bee suppliers.

School Committee

GRADUATION

Student Alumni Meeting ???????

This is a special ECBA meeting devoted to the Bee School graduates **TBD.**