

Beginning Beekeeping Class, Wilkes Community College

Week 1: The Honey Bee and Beekeeping

The History of the Honey Bee and Beekeeping

The Colony and the Hive: Organization and Honey Bee

Anatomy

Bees in a Colony

Types/Races of Bees

Week 2: Hive Construction – Pre-Assembled or Do-It-Yourself

Hive components and location

Bee Hive and Placement

- Hive Stand – landing area – expense
- Bottom board and removable tray – ventilation and varroa
- Hive Body – wired comb – plastic vs. beeswax – pesticide residue
- Reducer – 3 types – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wooden/winter/robbing
- Hive body/deep 9 $\frac{5}{8}$; Medium super 6 $\frac{5}{8}$; Shallow super 5 $\frac{11}{16}$
- Queen excluder
- Inner cover
- Telescoping top
- Bee space – $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ ” between frames, top of frame, etc.
- Feeders – Boardman, top, plastic bags, division board

Equipment

- Smoker – smoker fuel
- “Lighting a smoker”
- Hive tool – demonstrate use
- Bee brush
- PPE
 - Gloves
 - Helmet & veil/suit

Building your own wooden ware

Week 3: Four Ways to Obtain Bees

Getting started in Beekeeping: Ways to obtain bees

1. Packages
2. Nucleus
3. Established colony
4. Swarms

Week 4: Seasonal Management, Feeding, Re-Queening And Splitting

Hive Inspection

Seasonal Management

Calendar

Swarming

Food nectar sources

Feeding

Re-Queening

Splitting Hives

Week 5: Pests and Diseases

Pests and Disease

Varroa: Monitoring and Treatment

Pests and Diseases – Who, What and Treatment

Varroa

Tracheal Mites

American foulbrood

European foulbrood

Chalkbrood

Nosema

Sacbrood

Bears

Small Hive Beetle

Wax moths

Week 6: Honey Production and Pollination

What is Honey?

Extracting Honey

Harvesting Honey

When is honey ready to be removed from the colony?

Moisture content, refractometer

Honey bees as pollinators

Week 7: Your first season as a beekeeper

Different Seasons, Different Activities: Early Spring Tasks in the Beeyard, Summer, Fall and Winter

Week 8: Field Day

Field Day in the bee yard with demonstrations on:

Varroa monitoring and treatment

Routine Hive Inspection

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required, no one will be allowed to participate without PPE and completing the field trip form for WCC.

Planning on a Saturday in April—dependent on the weather!