

Hands-On Beekeeping Lessons

Intended for beginners or established beekeepers who feel they would benefit from the hands-on experience. Each lesson will consist of an in-depth discussion on a specific topic followed by practical demonstrations in the apiary. Lessons will cover a full season of beekeeping. Everyone will have the opportunity to work with colonies guided by an experienced beekeeper. Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions about any topic or specific problem. Lessons are informal and enjoyable. Learn from observation and actually working with honey bee colonies. Educate yourself. Meet other beekeepers. Help the honey bee.

March 24 – Managing Colonies of Honey Bees: Introduction/review of beekeeping essentials; basic honey bee biology; different types of equipment and their correct use (including a Top Bar hive); spring management of honey bee colonies.

April 21 – Manipulating Colony Reproduction Swarms: – anticipating, controlling, utilizing, managing; harvesting queen cells and royal jelly; bait boxes and catching swarms; preparing for the major nectar flows.

May 19 – Dividing Colonies: Simple methods for raising your own queens; making splits and nucleus colonies; expanding your number of colonies; combining colonies; nectar = honey.

June 23 – Harvesting Products of the Hive: Taking honey off the hives; extracting/processing honey; collecting pollen, propolis, and beeswax; comb honey, spun honey; beeswax and candles.

July 21 – Maintaining Healthy Honey Bees: Diseases and pests of honey bees and their controls; making choices and dealing with the mite problem; treatment options, including organic methods.

August 18 – Preparing for the Winter: Anticipating your colonies' needs; honey bee nutrition and feeding colonies, preparing for next year's bee season; resources for continuing education.

All Sessions: Saturdays from 12noon til 4:00pm. Rain or Shine. No registration required. Bring protective gear if you have it. (Extra veils available). Children accompanied by an adult are welcome.

Cost: \$15.00 per lesson per person or \$75.00 for all six lessons (pre-paid).
Couples/Parent&child: \$25.00 per lesson or \$125.00 for all six lessons (pre-paid).

Location: Honighaus, 12703 Blymire Hollow Road, Stewartstown, PA 17363

For more information: DCPapke@aol.com or phone 717-246-2339

Instructor: David Papke, past president of Central Maryland Beekeeper's Association, has kept bees for 36 years in PA, MD, OH, and in Central America as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Often asked to speak about his beekeeping experiences or to teach various aspects of beekeeping, Mr. Papke keeps bees in York County, PA, providing pollination services to growers and producing honey for the local market.
