

AN INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

This program, which combines both the theory and the practice of managing honeybees, is designed for those who have an interest in pursuing this fascinating hobby.

Each class will be held on a Saturday morning and will begin with a one hour Zoom session which can be accessed from home and will describe what is happening in the hives at that time of the year. It will be followed by practical hands-on opportunities in one of two apiaries under the guidance and assistance of experienced beekeepers. On completion of the course participants will have the knowledge and skill to manage hives of their own.



Registration is required using the on-line registration form at www.ycbk.org/member-resources/nu-beeprogram

The fee is \$100 per individual and may be paid by March 1st, through PayPal on this website or by personal check payable to York County Beekeepers Association and mailed to John Shaffer, YCBA Treasurer, 1442 Bonbar Road, York, PA 17403

The recommended text is **Smart, Simple Beekeeping** by Kirsten Traynor.

COURSE OUTLINE

March - Principles and Materials

Principles of beekeeping; materials, equipment and the structure of a Langstroth Hive

April - Bees, Pollen and Nectar

Bee castes; getting and introducing bees into a hive; pollen and nectar flows and manipulating a colony in preparation for the nectar flow.

May - Reproduction Via Swarming

The nectar flow, supers and swarming. Maximizing the honey crop, swarm management and making splits.

June - Pests, Disease and Integrative Pest Management

Diseases and pests with a focus on varroa mites; means of detection and control and emphasizing Integrated, with a particular emphasis on identifying, testing and treating for varroa mites.

July - Honey Extraction

August - Winter Preparation

Honey bee nutrition, feeding colonies, and overwintering needs.

An additional session might be offered late winter to assess winter survival rates and plan early spring management.