

Beginning Beekeeping Course - 2017

Objective: To create an interest in beekeeping and provide information needed for a person to become a keeper of honey bees, a beekeeper.

Session	Date•	Subject	Instructor
1	Jan 17	Introduction to Beekeeping ¹	Poston/Jollay
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review Course Outline ○ Benefits of Beekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollination (honey bees contribute \$24 billion/yr to US Agric ○ Products of the hive (honey, wax, propolis, pollen, royal jelly and bee's ○ History of Beekeeping ○ References, books, publications ○ Organizations – ACB, NCSBA, EAS 	
2	Jan 24	Equipment of Beekeeping	Poston/Jollay
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protective gear, veil, coveralls and gloves ○ Smoker ○ Hive tool and frame grips (if desired) ○ Hive moving frame ○ Hive straps or staples ○ Basic hive components ○ Bee space and critical dimensions ○ Woodenware ○ Bottom board, hive body, queen excluder, honey super, inner cover and lid assembly 	
3	Jan 31	Equipment of Beekeeping (continued)	Poston/Jollay
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frames (different designs of bottom and top bars) ○ Assembly ○ Foundation ○ Purpose ○ Various sizes and designs ○ Installation methods 	
4	Feb 7	Starting a Honey Bee Hive	Mike Ross
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Locating the hive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considerations – Location of water, direction to face the hive, sunlight, windbreak, away from sidewalks and playgrounds ○ Ways to start a hive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Package bees, nucs, splits (dividing a colony), swarms and removals from a tree or house or buy existing colony from another beekeeper ○ Feeding the new colony using several different type feeders ○ Checking hives after installing bees ○ Expanding your bees by dividing a colony or by starting a few nucs ○ Moving a hive (necessary when buying an existing colony) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considerations – When moving short distances, when moving long distance, extra equipment needed and preparations to be made by the beekeeper 	

5	Feb 14	Medicating Bees	Don Hopkins
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European foulbrood, American foulbrood, chalkbrood, sacbrood and nosema ○ Mites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varroa, Tracheal ○ Small Hive Beetles 	
6	Feb 21	Bees as Social Insects	Will Hicks
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other insects, bumble bees, hornets, wasps, etc. ○ Anatomy of the honey bee ○ Development of various caste (charts) ○ Relationships – which ones do what ○ Pheromones ○ Progression of duties ○ Different races of honey bees ○ Means of communicating (performing a dance on the combs) 	
7	Feb 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nectar Sources of North Carolina ○ Flowering Nectar Plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant Features, Period of nectar flow in different areas 	Don Hopkins
8	Mar 7	Introducing New Queen	Mike Ross
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requeen existing colony, split or swarm ○ Finding old queen ○ Different methods of introducing new queen ○ Advantages of young queen – less likely to swarm, builds up faster in Spring and raises brood later in the Fall 	
9	Mar 14	Primary Management Phases	Paul Jollay
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fall Management in preparation for Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> after all surplus honey has been removed ○ Treat for diseases and mites ○ Check for honey stores (feeding may be required) ○ Make sure colony has a good queen ○ Use entrance reducer to keep mice out ○ Provide both top ventilation and a windbreak for each hive ○ Second Spring Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparations for honey flow ○ Check brood to verify that colony is healthy and expanding ○ If you treat, treat early for diseases and mites ○ Try to control swarming during Spring buildup ○ Remove entrance reducers, install queen excluders and supers ○ After the honey flow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removing honey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing bees from supers by brushing, using one way bee escape, chemical repellents and a bee blower Processing the honey – liquid, comb, chunk and section ○ Rendering the wax (from the cappings) 	

10	Mar 21	Course Review	Poston/Jollay
		Ten Commandments of Beekeeping 1. Use only standard beekeeping equipment 2. Be considerate of non-beekeeping neighbors 3. Requeen 4. Control disease and parasites 5. Maximize colony population before the main nectar flow 6. Super colonies according to their need 7. Take pride in honey and other hive products 8. Protect your beekeeping equipment 9. Help your bees through winter 10. Join and participate in a beekeeping association	
11	Mar 25	Field Day (4 hours at an apiary in the local area) ²	Don Hopkins, Mike Ross Paul Jollay Ira Poston
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Light smoker and inspect a hive (first by an instructor and then by one or more students) ◦ Check for disease, check brood pattern and find the queen ◦ Identify a drone, eggs, young larvae, sealed worker brood, sealed drone brood, pollen and honey ◦ Show how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check for Varroa mites ▪ Install a package of bees (students will help shake the bees) ▪ Start a NUC ▪ Show steps necessary in preparation for honey flow – add queen excluder, add two or more supers, remove entrance reducer ▪ Demonstrate getting a hive ready for Winter – include checking a hive for honey stores, feeding by several methods, removing the queen excluder, providing upward ventilation and adding an entrance reducer 	

¹All evening class sessions will be held at the Ag Extension Office, 209 N. Graham Hopedale Rd in Burlington. The classes will run from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. on the dates shown above.

Directions: If you live in the Burlington area, you most likely won't need directions to the Ag Building (It's just down the street from Western Steakhouse); however, if you are coming from out of town one simple way to get to the Ag Building is to get off I-85/I-40 at exit 145 and head toward downtown Burlington. This street is Maple Avenue. Stay on Maple Avenue through the center of Burlington and then you will turn right on Church Street. Follow Church Street until you get to Graham Hopedale Rd, turn left, the Ag Building is the first building on the right.

²Each student should bring a veil and any other protective equipment they feel comfortable with while working bees. The smoker and hive tool will be provided. The location and starting time will be given during the class. Please note the Field Day will be on a Saturday. Rain date or Too Cold for the Field Day will be April 1st (also a Saturday).

The telephone numbers of your local instructors are as follows:

Don Hopkins – 336-376-8250	Paul Jollay-336-213-0912	Ira Poston-336-314-0499
Mike Ross – 336-584-8652		