



AN INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

This hands-on classroom program combines both the theory and practice of managing honeybees and is designed for those who have an interest in pursuing this fascinating hobby. Sessions begin with a topic discussion relevant to what is happening in the hive at that time of the year and will be followed by practical demonstrations in the apiary when appropriate. In this way, the annual cycle of a colony of honeybees is discussed and demonstrated. At completion of the course participants will have the knowledge and skill to manage hives of their own, with the potential for on-going mentorship from a member of the York County Beekeepers' Association.

We are pleased to offer beginner beekeeping classes in 2021. Due to Covid-19 we will be starting our classes in an on-line format and then hope to shift to smaller groups settings for the hands-on hive portion as the Covid-19 numbers drop and/or if other restrictions are not applied. Classes meet for a minimum of two hours and specific topics and areas of discussion outlined below will be covered in addition to time spent in the apiary hives (weather permitting). Participants are encouraged to read between classes and options will be suggested. Pre-Registration is required, and we encourage early registration as classes fill up quickly. Classes meet on a monthly basis March – August unless otherwise noted. An on-line registration form that can be found at <https://www.ycbk.org/member-resources/nu-bee-program>

TOPIC AND DISCUSSION BY MONTH:

March - Principles And Materials

Principles of beekeeping; materials and equipment. Weather permitting, an introduction to inspecting a 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

Honeybee anatomy and reproduction, controlling swarming, nucs and splits, expanding one's apiary. Also, maximizing one's honey crop.

June - Disease And Pests

Diseases and pests with a focus on varroa mites; means of detection and control emphasizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

July - Honey Extraction

August - Winter Preparation

Honey bee nutrition, feeding colonies, overwintering needs.

****September – If needed, a September class might be held if instructor deems necessary**