



## AN INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

This program, which combines both the theory and practice of managing honey bees, is designed for those who have an interest in pursuing this fascinating hobby. Each session will start with a discussion of a particular topic that is relevant to what is happening at that time of year, and will be followed by practical demonstrations in the apiary. In this way, the annual cycle of a colony of honey bees will be discussed and demonstrated, at the end of which a participant

will have the knowledge and skill to manage hives of his or her own, with the potential for on-going mentorship from the York County Beekeepers' Association.

Classes will meet at 2:00 pm on one Saturday of every month, beginning in March, which hopefully will allow plenty of time for work in the apiary. Classes will last a minimum of two hours and will extend longer for those who are so interested.

**Saturday March 17 - Principles and Materials.** The principles of beekeeping; materials and equipment. Weather permitting, an introduction to inspecting a hive.

**April 14 - Bees, Pollen and Nectar** - Bee castes; getting and introducing bees into a hive; the pollen and nectar flow, and manipulating a colony in preparation for the nectar flow.

**May 12 - Reproduction via swarming.** Honey bee anatomy and reproduction, controlling swarming, nucs and splits, expanding one's apiary. Also, maximizing one's honey crop.

**June 9 - Disease and pests.** Diseases and pests with a focus on varroa mites; means of detection and control emphasizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

**July 14 - Honey Extraction.**

**August 11 - Winter preparation.** Honey bee nutrition, feeding colonies, overwintering needs.

A September class will be available if needed.

Cost : \$20 per person per lesson or \$100 for all six lessons, pre-paid. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome, and the cost is \$30 for parent/child per lesson or \$150 for all six lessons. Payment for 6 lessons will also include a one year membership to the York County Beekeepers' Association. Pre-registration is essential as practical class size is limited. for practical reasons.

Reference : participants will be encouraged to read between classes. There are many sources available, and the recommended one is Simple, Smart Beekeeping by Kirsten and Michael Traynor.

Location : unless otherwise specified, 1722 Union Church Rd, Seven Valleys.

Instruction. One of the instructors at all sessions will be a YCBA recognized Master Beekeeper.

For further information, contact Jeremy Barnes, [honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com)