

Class Syllabus

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The following syllabus is intended to provide general guidelines and is subject to change. Due to the nature of the topics there will be some overlap between the units.

Unit 1 Beekeeping Basics – Lecture - December (3 hours)

- History of beekeeping
- Honey Bee Biology
- Who can keep honeybees?
- Components of a beehive
 - Woodenware
 - Frames and foundation
 - Feeders
- Protective clothing and equipment
- Tools
- Q&A

Unit 2 Care and Feeding of Honeybees –Lecture - January (3 hours)

- Spring and winter feeding - natural cycles of plenty and dearth
- Parasites, diseases, disorders and dealing with them
- Buying Bees - By the pound? Or would you prefer a 'nuc'?
- Q&A

Unit 3 ABC's of Assembling a Beehive - Workshop - February (3 hours)

- You may have decided to get some of your hive parts in 'kit' form.
- Hive bodies - glue and nails
- Frames and foundation
- Other components
- Paint
- How to setup your hive
- Q&A

Unit 4 Spring Hive Management – Beeyard - March (2 hours)

Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves

- In this outdoor lab we will open a hive and examine the inner workings of a living honey bee colony.
- Inspecting a hive
 - Brood buildup
 - Identifying:
 - Larvae
 - Capped brood
 - Pollen - 'bee bread'
 - Nectar
 - Capped Honey
 - Workers, drones and a queen
 - Swarm queen cells
 - Why is swarm management so important?
 - Making beehive 'splits'

Unit 5 Installing Bees/Spring Buildup –Beeyard - April (2 hours)

Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves

- We will install a package of bees into a new hive.
- Follow-up inspection of established hives from previous unit
- This is spring buildup!

Unit 6 Harvesting Honey –Workshop - May/June (2 hours)

- Take capped honey frames from a 'super', remove the cappings and extract the honey.
- Filter and bottle the product
- Reliquifying granulated honey

Unit 7 Getting Ready for Winter – Beeyard - August (2 hours)

Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves

- We will perform Varroa mite counts and apply a couple of treatments.
- Other end of season inspections
- Winter feeding