

## COMB 2019 Beekeeping Classes

Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

### Beginner Beekeeping Class

(located in Small Arena)

7:45-8:15:

#### Registration

8:15

**Welcome and Logistics** - Brian Jennings (15 minutes, both class in Arena)

8:30-10:00

**Intro to Beekeeping** – Chris Robbins (45 minutes)

“What is the Buzz all About?” Topics to be covered include beginning beekeeping principles, basic beekeeping information, time allocation and monetary outlays for beekeeping, site selection, equipment needs, overview of beekeeping laws in Michigan, mentorship, and educational resources.

**Bee Vocab and Equipment Identification** – Jennifer Densteadt (45 minutes)

Topics include the vocabulary of beekeeping and hands on demonstration of the common types of beekeeping equipment used by new beekeepers.

10:00

**Break / Vendor Floor / Networking** (30 minutes)

10:30

**Equipment Assembly for Beginners** – Brian Jennings (60 minutes)

If I didn't buy a preassembled hive, now what do I do? Hands-on demonstrations of common ways to assemble hive bodies and frames. Tips and tricks for getting it right.

11:30

**Lunch / Vendors / Networking** (60 minutes)

12:30

**Beekeepers Calendar** – Chris Robbins (60 minutes)

Overview of the tasks to be completed by the beekeeper during each month of the year. Principles and Demonstration of handling, care and installation of package bees and nucleus hives.

1:30

**Break / Vendor Floor / Networking** (30 minutes)

2:00

**Basic Bee Biology, Pests and Diseases** – Chris Robbins (60 Minutes)

Introduction to key honey bee biology for beginning beekeepers. Introduction to the common pests and diseases most commonly encountered in the first year of beekeeping.

3:00

**Apiary Safety** – Jennifer Densteadt (30 minutes)

Principles of having a safe and enjoyable experience in the bee yard.

3:30

**Q&A Round Table** – Brian Jennings, Chris Robbins, Jennifer Densteadt and other COMB members (30 minutes)

Any questions that didn't get answered elsewhere in the class.

4:00

**COMB Club Announcements and Adjournment**

**NOTE: There is also a horse show at the MSU Pavilion at the same time as the class. The concessions stand at the Pavilion will be open during the lunch break.**

## Intermediate Beekeeping Class

(located in classroom A, limited to 34 participants)

*Note class starts in Arena for welcome then moves to classroom A.*

**The Intermediate class is intended for beekeepers who have been keeping bees for at least one or two years and have had bees survive through the winter.**

7:45-8:15

### Registration

8:15

**Welcome and Logistics** – Brian Jennings (15 minutes, start in Arena and move to classroom A)

8:30

**Honeybee Biology** – Roger Hoopingartner (90 minutes)

An in-depth review of the honeybee biology, parts of the honeybee and what they do. Learn the parts of a bee digestive track and what it does, bee reproduction parts and more. Also learn about sense of smell and pheromones.

10:00

**Break / Vendor Floor / Networking** (30 minutes)

10:30

**Queen Rearing** – Mike Risk (60 Minutes)

Learn the basics of how to raise your own queens so you can replace aging queens or start new hives. This topic is at a high level. For an in-depth hands on class on queen rearing see our June two day Queen Rearing class. This talk will give you enough information to know if you should or want to get into queen rearing and if you should attend the June class. In this presentation Mike will explain the biology, techniques, and equipment that have worked for him raising queens here in Michigan.

11:30

**Lunch / Vendors / Networking** (60 minutes)

12:30

**Spring and Summer Management** – Mike Risk (60 Minutes)

This presentation will cover when to inspect hives, how to handle and 'read' frames, find the queen and evaluate activity at the hive entrance. Further topics of discussion to be covered: what to do with difficult colonies, stings, robbing; how to re-queen, feeding hives, hive health, adding foundation, super for honey production and swarm control manipulations

1:30

**Break / Vendor Floor / Networking** (30 minutes)

2:00

**Beekeepers Workshop** – Steve Tillman (60 minutes)

Steve Tillman from YouTube's "In the Beekeeper's Workshop" will cover how to make some handy beehive parts such as robbing screens, queen marking cups, queen cell protectors, queen introduction cages, wedge boards, rim boards, mini-nucs and more.

3:00

**Nucs** – Mike Risk (60 minutes)

What is a Nuc? How to use a Nuc for queen rearing, small colonies, and over wintering Nucs. What is the difference between a Nuc and a mini-Nuc? In this presentation Mike will define the procedures he uses for making splits in his nuc yard, and the care and feeding to assure hive survival through Michigan winters.

4:00

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