

**Essex County Beekeepers' Association
Practical Beekeeping
Winter/Spring 2009**

**Course Outline
Session 1 - February 23**

Greeting and Welcome

Vinny Gaglione Discussion of course syllabus
10 Minutes

**Surveying the History of the Beehive From
Earliest Beekeepers to the Present**

Bill Denhard Primitive beehives
30 Minutes Langstroth and his beehive

Break

Understanding the Modern Beehive

Will Graves Components of the modern beehive
25 Minutes

Relevant Equipment

Stephanie Williams Protective clothing for working
20 Minutes with bees
Tools for working with bees

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 24-33, 34-46, 49-54, 114-115
for next class

Course Outline
Session 2 - March 2, 2009

Local Suppliers
5 minutes each

Locating Suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment & Bees
David Meldrum Mail order suppliers
10 Minutes

Installing Package Bees
Vinny Gagalone Installing package bees
30 Minutes

Break

Managing Spring Started Colonies
David Meldrum Working with Spring started colonies
40 Minutes Spring, Summer, Fall

Questions and Answers

Announcement – Please read pages 24-33 for next class

Course Outline
Session 3 - March 9, 2009

Building Your Own Equipment

Brian Glass
20 Minutes

Sampling homemade equipment
Following industry standards
Incorporating the bee space in all designs
Assembling a hive body

Break

Assembling Equipment

Stan Sample

Assembling frames

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 10-15, 35-39 for next class

Course Outline
Session 4 - March 16, 2009

**Understanding the Life Cycle of the Honeybee
and Colony Organization**

Gretel Clark
45 Minutes

Types of honeybees
Development of honeybees
(practical biology)
Contribution of honeybees

Break

Setting Up an Apiary

John Cardillo
25 Minutes

Shelter concerns
Solar concerns
Topographical concerns
Human habitation concerns
Animal habitation concerns

Proper Use of Medications

Vinny Gaglione
10 Minutes

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 55-60, 64-70, 78-81, 103-110, for
next class

Course Outline
Session 5 - March 23, 2009

Managing Established (Over Wintered) Colonies
Spring and Summer Management

Rick Reault
40 Minutes

Late Winter inspection for stores
Early Spring inspection for stores
Early Spring inspection for evaluation
Spring inspection for evaluation
Swarm prevention

Break

Managing Colonies for Winter
Fall and Winter Management

Mike Bayko
40 Minutes

Requeening colonies
Evaluating colony population
Equalizing colonies
Evaluating colony food reserves
Feeding colonies
Protecting colonies from the
elements
Guarding colonies against mice

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 136-148 for next class

Course Outline
Session 6 - March 30, 2009

Bees Pests and Parasites

Tom Beaton
30 Minutes

Comb-damaging moths
Animal pests
Minor insect pests
Small hive beetle
Tracheal mite and varroa mite

Further Learning

Chris Murphy
10 Minutes

Organizations, associations, Ccubs,
publications, and other resources

Break

Identifying and Controlling Honeybee Diseases

Randy Johnson
40 Minutes

Brood diseases
Fungus diseases
Non-infectious diseases
Chilled brood
Adult honeybee diseases
Applying pesticides

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 16-23, 149-153 for next class

Course Outline
Session 7 - April 6, 2009

Understanding the Material Needs of Honeybees

Eric Josephson
40 Minutes

Nectar as a life sustaining material
Pollen as a life sustaining material
Propolis as a life sustaining material
Water as a life sustaining material

Forage Plants

Nectar producing plants useful to
honeybees
Pollen producing plants useful to
honeybees
Evaluation of your apiary for
honeybee's forage

Break

Working With the Honeybee

Peter Delaney
30 Minutes

Equipment for the work
Procedure for the work
Purpose for the work

The Beekeeper's Calendar

Jason Sample
10 Minutes

Questions and Answers

Announcement - Please read pages 113-124 for next class

Course Outline
Session 8 - April 13, 2009

Other Products From the Hive –
Other Reasons to Keep Bees

Chris Delaney
40 Minutes

Beeswax (candles, cosmetics, polishes)
Pollination
Pollen
Propolis
Apitherapy
Review package installation

Break

Taking & Processing the Honey Crop

Christine Lewis
Kathy Sample
40 Minutes

Mechanical methods for removing
supers
Chemical methods for removing supers
Equipment for extracted honey production
Processing extracted honey
Processing cut-comb honey
Processing comb honey

Questions and Answers

Course Outline
Session 9 - April 20, 2009

Overview of Classes

Review class
Highlighting critical points
Installing package bees
Hive opening experience

Break

Course evaluation
Raffle of products donated by bee suppliers

Questions and Answers