

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 1: February 21 - History and Equipment and Clothing</b>	
<b>President's Welcome</b>	ECBA President 5 Minutes
<b>Administrivia</b>	Bee School Chairman 10 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions, Class Logistics, and Announcements</li> <li>• Discussion of Course Syllabus and Course Materials</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 1-1: Surveying the History of the Beehive</b>	30 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beehives and Beekeeping</li> <li>• Langstroth and his Beehive</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 1-2: Understanding the Modern Beehive</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 3)	25 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Components of the Modern Beehive</li> </ul> <p>(Please wait to assemble)</p>	
<b>Lesson 1-3: Beekeeping Equipment</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 4, pages 30-33)	20 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective clothing for working with bees</li> <li>• Tools for working with bees</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the suppliers next week.... Think about your bee orders!</li> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapters 6, 8, 9, Chapter 4, pages 34-35 and 169-180 for next week's class.</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 2: February 28 - Meet the Suppliers, Installing Packages, Spring and Summer Management</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) Painting your wood hive equipment</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
<b>Lesson 2-1: Meet the Local Suppliers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Beekeeping suppliers will introduce themselves and their services</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 2-2: Locating suppliers of Beekeeping Equipment and Bees</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, pages 169-180)	10 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mail order suppliers</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 2-3: Installing Package Bees</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 4, pages 34-35, Chapter 6)	30 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Package Arrives</li> <li>• Hive Preparation</li> <li>• Install Bees</li> <li>• Install Queens</li> <li>• Feeding the newly installed bees</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 2-4: Spring &amp; Summer Management of a new colony First Year</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 8, 9)	40 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to work the hive</li> <li>• Evaluating colony conditions and population</li> <li>• Feeding</li> <li>• Supering (adding boxes to the hive)</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note: Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapter 3 for next weeks' class</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 3: March 6 – Equipment and Frame Night</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) Lighting your Smoker</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
•	
<b>Lesson 3-1: Building your own equipment</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 3)	20 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hive Bodies, Frames &amp; Foundation – An overview of options</li> <li>• Sampling homemade equipment</li> <li>• Following industry standards</li> <li>• Assembling of supers</li> <li>• Incorporating the bee space in all designs</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 3-2: Assembling Frames</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 3, pages 27-29)	75 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frame Assembly – Step-by-Step</li> <li>• Wax Foundation</li> <li>• Plastic Foundation</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapters 1 and 2, Chapter 3, pages 26-27, Chapter 4, pages 35-39, Chapter 11, pages 102,103, 110,111 for next week's class</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 4: March 13 – Bee Biology, Bee Culture, and Apiary Set-up</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) TBD</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
<b>Lesson 4-1: Understanding the life cycle of the honeybee and colony organization</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 1,2)	45 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of Honeybees (castes)</li> <li>• Development of Honeybees (practical biology)</li> <li>• Contribution of Honeybees</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 4-2: Understanding Honeybee Behavior, Bee Culture</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 3, pages 26-27. Chapter 11, pages 102-103-110-111)	25 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bees organization in the hive</li> <li>• Supersedure</li> <li>• Swarming</li> <li>• Bee Space</li> <li>• Robbing</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 4-3: Setting up an Apiary</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 4, pages 35-39)	25 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter concerns</li> <li>• Solar concerns</li> <li>• Topographical concerns</li> <li>• Human &amp; Animal habitation concerns</li> <li>• Good Neighbor Policy</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapters 8 and 9 for next week's class</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 5: March 20 – Management of over wintered, established Hives</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) – Making Mead (Honey Wine)</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
•	
<b>Lesson 5-1: Spring and Summer Management</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 8, 9)	45 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late winter inspection of food stores</li> <li>• Early spring inspection of food stores</li> <li>• Spring evaluation and inspection</li> <li>• Swamp prevention</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 5-2: Fall and Winter Management</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapters 8 , 9)	45 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating colony condition and population</li> <li>• Evaluating food stores</li> <li>• Feeding colonies</li> <li>• Protecting colonies from the elements</li> <li>• Requeening a colony</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapter 13 and pages 169-180 for next week's class</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 6 - March 27 - Pests and Diseases</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) Living with bees</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
<b>Lesson 6-1: Learning through Organizations and Associations</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Pages 169-180)	10 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web Sites</li> <li>• Organizations and sources of information</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 6-2: Bee Pests, Parasites and Diseases</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 13)	30 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracheal Mites and Varroa Mites</li> <li>• Animal pests</li> <li>• Comb-damaging moths</li> <li>• Minor insect pests</li> <li>• Small hive beetle</li> <li>• Symptoms of brood diseases</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	20 Minutes
<b>Lesson 6-3: Identifying and Controlling Honeybee Diseases</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 13)	45 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brood Diseases</li> <li>• Fungus Diseases</li> <li>• Non-infectious Diseases</li> <li>• Chilled Brood</li> <li>• Adult Honeybee Diseases</li> <li>• Applying Mite Pesticide</li> <li>• Integrated Pest Management</li> <li>• Proper use of medications</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapter 12, pages 121-122, Chapters 5, 7, and 14 for next week's class</li> </ul>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 7 – April 3 – Pollination and Nectar Sources, working the Honeybees</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) Live bee package installation</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
•	
<b>Lesson 7-1: Needs of Honeybees</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 7, Chapter 12, pages 121-122, Chapter 14)	35 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nectar, Pollen, Propolis and water as life sustaining materials</li> <li>• Forage Plants</li> <li>• Nectar &amp; Pollen producing plants useful to Honeybees</li> <li>• Evaluation of your apiary for Honeybee forage</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 7-2: Beekeepers Calendar</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 8, 9)	10 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of beekeeping tasks</li> <li>• Activity timeline</li> </ul>	
<b>Break / Signup for Hive Openings</b>	25 Minutes
<b>Lesson 7-3: Working with Honeybees</b> (Beekeepers Handbook Reference, Chapter 5)	40 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment for the work</li> <li>• Procedure for the work</li> <li>• Purpose for the work</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read Beekeepers Handbook Chapter 9, pages 78-81 and Chapter 12, pages 118-123</li> </ul>	
<b>****Bee Packages should arrive around April 14 ****</b>	
<b>WEEK-END HIVE OPENINGS</b> You will travel to a beekeepers apiary where you will participate in opening a hive. Bring your veil. Hive Openings – Saturday, April 14 Locations to be announced	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 8 – April 10 – Honey and other products from the Hive</b>	
<b>Pre-Class (6:30) TBD</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
<b>Lesson 8-1: Other products from the Hive, Other reasons to keep Honeybees</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 12, pages 118-123)	30 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beeswax</li> <li>• Pollination</li> <li>• Propolis</li> <li>• Pollen</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson 8-2: Review of Package Installation</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 6)	15 Minutes
<b>Break</b>	15 Minutes
<b>Lesson 8-3: Harvesting and Processing the Honey Crop</b> (Beekeepers Handbook, Chapter 9, pages 75-81)	50 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical methods for removing bees from supers</li> <li>• Chemical methods for removing bees from supers</li> <li>• Equipment for extracted Honey production</li> <li>• Processing extracted Honey</li> <li>• Processing cut-comb Honey</li> <li>• Processing comb Honey</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements, Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	5 Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember to bring your veil to the hive openings</li> </ul>	
<b>****Bee Packages should arrive around April 14 ****</b>	

**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Practical Beekeeping Syllabus**  
**Winter/Spring 2012**

<b>Session 9 – April 17 – Wrap Up</b>	
<b>Announcements, Questions and Discussion about last weeks' lessons</b>	5 Minutes
•	
<b>Lesson 9-1: Review</b>	40 Minutes Bee School Committee ECBA Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hive Opening Experience</li> <li>• Highlight of Critical Points</li> <li>• Installing Package Bees</li> </ul>	
<b>Break</b>	15 Minutes
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	
<b>Raffle of products donated by Bee Suppliers</b>	
<b>Graduation Ceremony</b>	