

**2010 Beginning Bee Series
Indian Creek Nature Center
6665 Otis Road SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Phone 319-362-0664**

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This eight session series is designed for individuals serious about starting a beekeeping hobby. The series will take the participant through the annual cycle of beekeeping from establishing a hive to harvesting and marketing the honey produced. Classes run two hours; in the field, participants are welcome to stay longer with questions; attendance is important. The class members will be actively involved in learning activities by working with the hives at the Indian Creek Nature Center.

**Instructors: Bob Wolff 319-366-5415
 Jean Wiedenheft 319-362-0664**

**Fee: \$50 series/Member
 \$80 series/Nonmember**

Fee includes:

***Starting Right with Bees* by R.I. Root Company**

Binder of handouts

Use of the Nature Center's Honeyhouse and extracting equipment (must be scheduled and take place between Sunday, August 22 and Wednesday, September 15).

All Classes are held at Indian Creek Nature Center.

Session I Thursday, January 21, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM

Purpose: To show and explain the equipment and materials needed for beekeeping.

1. Essentials for a functioning beehive and total costs
2. Demonstration of the assembly of the hive body and class participation in assembling frames
3. What to wear when working bees and options in ordering equipment and bees
4. Ordering bees

Session II Thursday, February 11, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM

Purpose: To learn about bee behavior, installing a package of bees, registration and inspection of bees.

1. Individual bee and colony behavior
2. Assembling the beehive
3. Where to locate beehives
4. Video on installing a package of bees
5. Registration and inspection of bees and other resources to help beekeepers

Session III Early Date in April (specific date and time established with a telephone call to class members, first or second week in April.) Usually a 30-minute session starting at 5 PM.

Purpose: To show how to install a package of bees and discuss early care of bees. Your package of bees is to be picked up at this session.

Session IV Saturday, April 24, 2010 1:00 PM-1 Hour in the classroom, the remaining time in the field.

Purpose: To learn about and practice early spring management techniques.

1. Characteristics of different races of bees
2. Mite detection and control
3. Purpose and use of the smoker
4. Locating the queen and evaluation of the brood
5. Bee diseases & detection/prevention

Session V Saturday, May 15, 2010 1:00 PM-1 Hour in the classroom, remaining time in the field.

Purpose: To cover important hive management techniques prior to honey flow.

1. The impact of swarming and supercedes
2. Evaluation of colony build-up
3. Identification of desirable plants and trees for bees

Session VI Thursday, July 8, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM

Purpose: To consider mid-summer hive management and needs of the beekeeper for processing and marketing of bee products.

1. Alternative methods of honey removal
2. Late summer treatment for diseases and mites
3. Items needed for extracting, processing, and storing honey
4. Marketing

Session VII Saturday, August 21, 2010 1:00-3:00 PM in the honeyhouse.

Purpose: To show how to process honey and prepare the bees for winter.

1. Extracting and processing ways
2. Handling supers after harvest
3. Winterizing the hive

Session VIII Thursday, January 13, 2011 7:00-9:00 PM

Purpose: To assist in developing plans for overwintered hives and to review management practices for early spring.

Honey Fest

Sunday, September 19, 2010 from 1-4 PM

Honey Fest is a public event featuring honey bee educational displays and activities, bee related crafts, games, foods made with honey, and live music.