



2018 Beginning Beekeeping Class

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. The class members will be actively involved in learning activities by working in our Educational Apiary at Indian Creek Nature Center.

Cost: \$90 Members, \$100 Non-members
Registration is from 12/2/17 to 1/11/18

Recommended Text:

The Beekeeper's Handbook, 4th edition by Diane Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile

Limited quantities are available in the Indian Creek Nature Center's Creekside Shop. We recommend that you have a book before the first class, but it is not required. Each class will have recommended reading from the book, which will enhance your learning.

What You Get:

Fee includes lecture and field classes, informational handouts, and use of the Nature Center's Honey House for extraction in the fall. Students must attend Session VII to use the honey house for extraction. The extraction schedule is available after the August 11th class and remains available until October 1st. All Field Days have an indoor equivalent, in case of rain or inclement weather.

About The Class:

All beekeepers will attend lectures as a large group, held in the Amazing Space Auditorium. In addition to lectures, all beekeeping participants will be guided in hands-on "Field Days" in our Educational Apiary. Small groups will be formed to offer more one-on-one time with instructors. All class participants are encouraged to volunteer at our Honey Fest in the fall as a way to network with experienced beekeepers and encourage new beekeepers.

Lecture Dates:

Friday, January 12th from 6-9pm
Friday, February 9th from 6-9pm
Friday, July 13th from 6-9pm
Friday, October 12th from 6-9pm
Location: Amazing Space Auditorium; 5300
Otis Road SE

Field Day Dates:

Saturday, April 14th
Saturday, May 13th
Saturday, August 11th
Location: Educational Apiary; 6665 Otis Road
SE.
Park in the lot across from the Barn on the
corner of Otis Rd and Bertram Rd and walk to
the Apiary. The Apiary is located behind the
Barn, alongside Bertram Rd. Proper beekeeping
attire required.

Choose one of the following time slots:

- Class A - 9:00-11:00am
- Class B - 11:30am-1:30pm

Indian Creek Nature Center
5300 Otis Road SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Phone 319-362-0664
www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org



2018 Beginning Beekeeping Class

Session I Friday, January 12th

Amazing Space Auditorium, 6-9 PM

Topics: The equipment and materials needed for beekeeping.

1. Essentials for a functioning beehive and total costs.
2. Assembly of the hive body/super and frames.
3. What to wear when working bees and options in ordering equipment and bees.
4. Ordering bees.

Recommended reading before next class: Chapter 1, 3, 4, 6 and Appendix A

Session II Friday, February 9th

Amazing Space Auditorium, 6-9 PM

Topics: 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.

Recommended reading before next class: Chapter 2, 8, 10

Session III Saturday, April 14 (See Field Day times)

The Barn Apiary, (6665 Otis Road SE)

Topics: Early spring management techniques, bee characteristics, bee health.

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

Recommended reading before next class: Chapter 5 and 7

Optional: Review Chapters 4 and 6

Session IV Date in April TBD (Class members will be notified via email.)

The Barn Apiary - 1 hour session, evening time TBD

Topic: Install a package of bees and discuss early care of bees.

1. Your package of bees is to be picked up at this session, if you order through the Nature Center.
2. Instructors will demonstrate installation of a hive at pick-up.

Recommended reading before next class: Chapter 9, 11, 15

Optional: Review Chapter 5



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Session V Saturday, May 13th (See Field Day times)

The Barn Apiary, (6665 Otis Road SE)

Topic: Important hive management techniques prior to honey flow.

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

Recommended reading before next class: Chapter 12, 13, 14 and Appendix H

Optional: Review Chapter 9

Session VI Friday, July 13th

Amazing Space Auditorium, 6-9 PM

Topic: Mid-summer hive management and processing and marketing of bee products.

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

Recommended reading before next class: Review Chapter 9 and 12

Session VII Saturday, August 11th (See Field Day times)

The Sugar House, (6665 Otis Road SE)

Topic: Process honey and prepare the bees for winter.

1. Extracting and processing
2. Handling supers after harvest
3. Fall treatment for diseases
4. Winterizing the hive

Recommended reading before Honey Fest: review the chapter from the book that corresponds to the volunteer position you select.

Recommended reading before October lecture: Review Chapter 7 and 8

Honey Fest -Saturday, September 22nd

Amazing Space, 10 AM-2 PM

Sign up to volunteer!

Honey Fest is a public event featuring honey bee educational displays and activities, bee related crafts, games, foods made with honey, and live music. All beekeepers are encouraged to sign up for a 2-hour volunteer position of their choice. More details to come on August 11th Field Day.

Session VIII Friday, October 12th

Amazing Space Auditorium, 6-9 PM

Topic: Develop plans for overwintered hives & to review management practices for early spring.

1. Winter checkups
2. Early spring management