

Frederick County Beekeeping Assoc.
Self-Paced Bee Class for Beginners
January 2021

This course makes use of the following informational sources:

- Reading assignments from *Beekeeping for Dummies* (2020 edition). E-version. Paperback.
- *Beekeeping for Dummies* videos: <https://www.dummies.com/book-extras/beekeeping-for-dummies-5th-edition-resource-center/>
- Videos from Ohio State Beekeepers Assoc. (http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/), and
- Videos from the Univ of Guelph <https://honeybee.uoguelph.ca/videos/video-list/>
- Other select websites noted by: (www)

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(All the following Reading Assignment sections are from *Beekeeping for Dummies 5th Ed*)

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- B. Beyond the Book Where to Go from Here

II. Part 1: Taking Flight with Beekeeping

- A. Chapters 1: To Bee, or Not to Bee?
 - 1. Discovering the Benefits of Beekeeping
 - 2. Determining Your Beekeeping Potential
 - 3. Deciding Which Beekeeping Approach to Follow
- B. Chapter 2: Getting to Know Your Hones Bees
 - 1. Basic Body Parts
 - 2. The Amazing Language of Bees
 - 3. Getting to Know the Male and the Two Female Castes
 - a) *[A Quick View of a Propolis Forager](#)* (2:16)
 - b) *[Water Foragers](#)* (3:24)
 - c) *[Hiving a Swarm](#)* (7:45) (From beneath the screen bottom board)
 - d) *[Hiving Three Swarms](#)* (5:45) (Three swarms found in three different situations)
 - 4. The Honey Bee Life Cycle
 - 5. Other Stinging insects

III. Part 2: Starting Your Adventure

- A. Chapter 3: Alleviating Apprehensions and Making Decisions
 - 1. Overcoming Sting Phobia
 - a) *[Stinging](#)* (4:00)
 - 2. Understanding Local Laws and Ordinances
 - a) *[MD apiary laws](#)* (PDFs)
 - 3. Easing the Minds of Family and Neighbors
 - 4. Location. Location, Location: Where to Keep Your Hives
 - a) *[Hive location and setup](#)* (4:38)
 - 5. Knowing When to Start Your Adventure
- B. Chapter 4: Selecting a Hive That's Perfect for You
 - 1. The Langstroth Hive (as book does, encourage Langstroth hive for beginner)
 - 2. The Kenyan Top Bar Hive
 - 3. The Apimave Insulated Hive
 - 4. The Flow Hive
 - 5. The Warré (People's) Hive
 - 6. The Five-Frame Nuc Hive
 - 7. The Observation Hive

8. Make a Beeline to the Best Beehive
- C. Chapter 5: Basic Equipment for Beekeepers
 - a) [Basic Hive Equipment](#) (7:08)
 - b) [Hive Supers](#) (6:35)
2. Starting Out with the Langstroth Hive
 - a) [Hive equipment](#) (5:57)
 - b) [Assembling Hive Equipment](#) (6:20)
3. Knowing the Basic Woodenware Parts of the Langstroth Hive
 - a) [Assembling frames for wax foundation](#) (2:41) *(FCBA Tip: Book encourages use of wax foundation. Consider, instead, the use of hand-waxed plastic foundation along with proper manipulation and continuous feeding to get quick and complete drawing of comb.)*
 - b) [Installing wax foundation](#) (2:55)
 - c) [Frame Assembly for plastic foundation](#) (8:13)
4. Knowing the Basic Parts of a Top Bar Hive
5. Ordering Hive Parts
6. Adding on Feeders
 - a) [Feeders Part 1](#) (8:00)
 - b) [Feeders Part 2](#) (6:09)
 - c) [Building comb](#) (15:52)
7. Fundamental Tools
 - a) [Protective Clothing and other Equipment](#) (5:32)
8. Bee-Proof Clothing
 - a) [Protective clothing](#) (4:19)
9. Really Helpful Accessories
 - a) [Specialty Beehive Equipment](#) (5:04)
- D. Chapter 6: Obtaining and Installing Your Bees
 1. Determining the Kind of Bee You Want *(FCBA Tip: FCBA recommends Italian bees for beginners.)*
 2. Deciding How to Obtain Your Initial Bee Colony
 3. Picking a Reputable Bee Supplier
 4. Deciding When to Place Your Order
 5. The Day Your Girls Arrive
 6. Putting Your Bees into the Hive
 - a) [Installing a Package Example 1](#) (4:43)
 - b) [Installing a Package Example 2](#) (14:40)
 - c) [Package Bees Example 3 Part 1](#) (5:14) *(Preparing the hive and the queen)*
 - d) [Package Bees Example 3 Part 2](#) (3:07) *(Releasing the bees)*
 - e) [Installing a Nucleus Example 1](#) (9:20)
 - f) [Installing a Nucleus Example 2](#) (14:37)

IV. Part 3: Time for a Peek

A. Chapter 7: Opening Your Hive

1. Establishing Visiting Hours
2. Setting an Inspection Schedule
3. Preparing to Visit Your Langstroth or Top Bar Hive
4. Lighting Your Smoker
 - a) [*Lighting your smoker*](#) (2:12)
 - b) [*Smoker use*](#) (6:26)
5. Opening a Langstroth Hive
 - a) [*Opening your hive*](#) (2:54)
 - b) [*Opening hives*](#) (12:16)
 - c) [*Finding queens*](#) (10:28)
 - d) [*Requeening*](#) (7:44)
 - e) [*Marking and clipping queens*](#) (4:55)
 - f) [*Why buy queens*](#) (5:27)
 - g) [*Caring for caged queens*](#) (3:48)
6. Opening a Top Bar Hive
7. The Hive's Open! Now What?

B. Chapter 8: What to Expect When You're Inspecting

1. Keeping a Journal
2. Inspecting a Langstroth Hive
 - a) [*Colony inspection*](#) (10:11)
3. Inspecting a Top Bar Hive
4. Understanding What to Always Look For
5. Your New Colony's First Eight Weeks

C. Chapter 9: Different Seasons. Different Activities

1. Lazy. Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer
 - a) [*Refurbishing Hive Equipment*](#) (5:40)
 - b) [*Evaluating a Queen's Performance Part 1*](#) (5:11) (Determining the need for a new queen)
 - c) [*Evaluating a Queen's Performance Part 2*](#) (5:53) (Stabilizing the weakened colony until a queen can be purchased.)
 - d) [*Evaluating a Queen's Performance Part 3*](#) (7:44) (Installing the new queen)
 - e) [*Evaluating A Queen's Performance Part 4*](#) (5:45) (Checking the new queen release procedure)
2. Falling Leaves Point to Autumn Chores
 - a) [*Preparing Colonies for Winter*](#) (3:53)
3. Clustering in a Winter Wonderland
 - a) [*An Introduction to Wintering Biology*](#) (3:10)
 - b) [*Dealing with Deadouts \(Part 1\)*](#) (6:55)
 - c) [*Dealing with Deadouts \(Part 2\)*](#) (9:22)

4. Spring is in the Air (Starting Your Second Season)
 - a) [Spring Bee Flight](#) (2:19)
 - b) [Spring Management Part 1](#) (5:35)
 - c) [Spring Management Part 2](#) (6:52)
 - d) [Spring Management Part 3](#) (5:35)
 - e) [Spring Management Part 4](#) (7:26) (*Feeding Bee Hives*)
 - f) [Supering](#) (6:36)
 - g) [Swarm control](#) (14:34)
 - h) [Moving hives](#) (13:35)
 - i) [Moving Two Bee Colonies](#) (8:16)
 - j) [Correcting a Cross-Comb Colony](#) (9:16)
5. Managing Top Bar Hives in the Spring
6. The Beekeeper's Calendar

V. Part 4: Common Problems and Simple Solutions

A. Chapter 10: Anticipating and Preventing Potential Problems

1. Running Away (to Join the Circus?)
2. Where Did the Queen Go?
3. Avoiding Chilled Brood
4. Dealing with the Dreaded Robbing Frenzies
5. Ridding Your Hive of the Laying Worker Phenomenon
 - a) [Laying Worker video 1](#) (9:14)
 - b) [Laying Workers video 2 Part 1](#) (7:58) (*How to combine it with another colony*)
 - c) [Laying Workers video 2 Part 2](#) (6:03) (*Combining a laying worker colony with a queen-right nucleus colony*)
6. Preventing Pesticide Poisoning
7. The "Killer Bee" Phenomenon

B. Chapter 11: Colony Collapse Disorder

1. What Is CCD?
2. What to Do If You Suspect CCD
3. Why All the Fuss?
4. What's Causing CCD?
5. Answers to FAQ5
 - a) [Visit Honey Bee Coalition and download Best Management Practices for Bee Health](#) ([www](#))
6. What You Can Do to Help

C. Chapter 12: Keeping Your Bees Healthy

1. Understanding the Importance of Good Nutrition
2. Medicating or Not?
3. Knowing the Big-Six Bee Diseases

D. Chapter 13 Heading Off Honey-Bee Pests

1. Parasitic Problems

- a) [Varroa Population Dynamics](#) (9:00)
- b) [Varroa Sticky Boards](#) (7:19)
- c) [Varroa Alcohol Wash](#) (10:25)
- d) [Why Did My Bees Die?](#) (19:11) (www)
- e) [Understanding Varroa Risk](#) (19:34) (www)
- f) [Making a Plan for the Varroa Mite](#) (1:17:52) (www)

2. Other Unwelcome Pests

3. Pest Control at a Glance

- a) [Abnormal Conditions Part 1 Failed Queens and Chalk Brood](#) (10:11)
- b) [Abnormal Conditions Part 2 Wax Moth, Monitoring Mites, and Antibiotics](#) (7:52)
- c) [Abnormal Conditions Part 3 Laying Workers and Sacbrood](#) (10:38)

E. Chapter 14: Raising Your Own Queens (good to know but not something to dwell on for first year beekeepers)

- 1. Why Raising Queens is the Bee's Knees
- 2. Understanding Genetics
- 3. What Makes a Queen a Queen
- 4. Talking about the Birds and Bees for Honey Bees
- 5. Creating Demand: Making Queenless Nuc
- 6. Queen-Rearing Method 1: Go with the Flow
- 7. Queen-Rearing Method 2: The Miller Method
- 8. Queen-Rearing Method 3: The Doolittle Method, also Known as Grafting
- 9. Finding Homes for Your Queens
- 10. Evaluating the Results
- 11. The Queen Rearer's Calendar
- 12. Marking Your Queens

VI. Part 5: Sweet Rewards

A. Chapter 15: Honey, I Love You

- 1. Appreciating the History of Honey
- 2. Understanding the Composition of Honey
- 3. Healing with Honey
- 4. Choosing Extracted, Comb. Chunk, or Whipped Honey
- 5. Taking the Terror out of Terroir
- 6. The Commercialization of Honey
- 7. Appreciating the Culinary Side of Honey
- 8. Pairing Honey with Food
- 9. Infusing Honey with Flavors
- 10. Judging Honey

11. Honey Trivia
 - B. Chapter 16: Getting Ready for the Golden Harvest
 1. Having Realistic Expectations
 2. What Flavor Do You Want?
 3. Assembling the Right Equipment to Extract Honey
 4. Planning Your Extracted Honey Harvest Setup
 5. Gathering Comb Honey Equipment
 6. Branding and Selling Your Honey
 - C. Chapter 17: Honey Harvest Day
 1. Knowing When to Harvest
 2. Getting the Bees out of the Honey Supers
 3. Honey Extraction from a Langstroth Frame
 4. Harvesting Honey from Your Top Bar Hive
 5. Harvesting Wax
- VII. Part 6: The Part of Tens
- A. Chapter 18: More than Ten Fun Things to Do with Bees
 - a) *Transferring Bees Part 1* (8:34)
 - b) *Transferring Bees Part 2* (5:30)
 1. Making Two Langstroth Hives from One
 - a) *Splitting colonies* (19:06)
 2. Making One Langstroth Hive from Two
 3. Dividing a Top Bar Hive into Two Colonies
 4. Combining Two Top Bar Hive Colonies
 5. Building an Elevated Hive Stand
 6. Planting Flowers for Your Bees
 7. Brewing Mead: The Nectar of the Gods
 8. Create Cool Stuff with Propolis
 9. Making Gifts from Beeswax
 10. Beauty and the Bees
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 - C. Chapter 20: My Ten Favorite Honey Recipes
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 2. Bee Organizations and Conferences
 - a) *Maryland State Beekeepers Association* (www)
 - b) *Honey Bee Coalition* (www)
 - c) *National Honey Board* (www)
 - d) *American Bee Federation* (acts on behalf of the bee industry) (www)

3. The Western Apiculture Society
 - a) [*The Eastern Apiculture Society*](#) ^(www)
 4. Bee Journals and Magazines
 - a) [*American Bee Journal*](#) ^(www)
 - b) [*Bee Culture*](#) ^(www)
 5. Beekeeping Supplies and Equipment
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 7. State Bee Inspectors (United States)
- B. Appendix B: Beekeeper's Checklist
- C. Appendix C: Glossary

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