



The mission of the Urban Apiculture Institute is to promote honeybees and healthy beekeeping practices in Milwaukee County. We train beekeepers in practical, successful, and responsible urban beekeeping practices and foster closer relationships among beekeepers.

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## 2017 Beekeeping for Certification Class

The University of Wisconsin Extension 2017 Beekeeping for Certification Program will start on April 5. To maintain bees on your property in some municipalities including the City of Milwaukee, you are required to be a certified beekeeper. However, some students take this class without the intention of ever keeping bees. As you will see, we have various options within this class to fit your needs.

Beekeeping can be an expensive hobby. Some students find all the effort and materials needed to keep bees is not what they anticipated beforehand. Our program helps you minimize that financial risk by providing materials you can use without the personal expensive investment. However, if you plan on eventually buying all the equipment, we provide this one season use of our apiaries, hives, tools and bees. This will help you make informed choices of what you will need for your own apiary.

Beside the lecture format, our beekeeping course includes opportunities to work with our equipment in a series of what we call “labs”, as in laboratory experience. These hands-on experiences will be either at our apiary or in a classroom and is intended to acquaint all students with an up-close opportunity for a real life beekeeping experience.

Personal protection (bee suit) will be required to take part in activities that work with live bees. We realize some experienced beekeepers do not use bee suits, but we want to minimize the risk of stings. Students could also observe some of these activities from a distance without a bee suit. You can still get close to the action with minimal chances of being stung. Bees are gentle insects but will protect their hive if they feel threatened. We have a limited supply of bee suits available to use at the apiary.

### The Laboratories and Apiary Experiences or “Labs”

Some of our labs will be held in either in room 414 at the UW Extension office (address above) or at one of our apiaries. Many of the apiary experiences will be held at the Firefly Ridge Community Garden apiary. The garden is about one mile from our office. Other class apiaries include our Rawson Mitchell Garden, 1300 East Rawson Ave. in Oak Creek and Kohl Farm Community Garden, 8434 West County Line Road (across from the Mequon Nature Preserve)

After the two first two labs, dates for laboratory experiences, whether it is working in an apiary or at our office, will be determined by class consensus. It is very difficult to select dates for many of the field labs because of the uncertainty of available supplies, bees and weather. New bee packages arrive at the pleasure of our suppliers. The availability to our suppliers is also dictated by weather, transportation and other uncertainties. We will try to accommodate you best we can but understand that these variables are out of our control. Subsequent labs at the apiaries are also dependent on many circumstances. At our last class, we set different times for each apiary because of students schedules etc. Understand that we will try our best to accommodate all students but sometimes that may be impossible.

——- MORE OVER ——-

Because our Urban Apiculture Institute also maintains hives at our apiaries, along with our teaching hives, opportunities to participate will be varied and diverse.

**Again, It is not necessary to participate in the apiary experience for certification**, but you will then have to pass a short field test to demonstrate your beekeeping competence to be certified. In the past, some class members were already beekeepers wanting to increase their skills and be certified. Other students just wanted to learn more about beekeeping and did not have an interest working on an actual hive. Others had no need for a certification.

Recently, we held a series of focus groups to help us guide this program. **All** of our previous students in the focus groups, who took part in the apiary experience, indicated that they found that it enhanced and enforced the teachings of the lecture series.

Our model for the apiary work experience is somewhat self-directed. As a member of a 3-4 person team, you and your teammates, with training, will manage a hive throughout the first year. Your team will do everything from installing a package of bees in spring to extracting the honey in late summer. The team will also prepare the hive for a long cold winter.

### **Our three options for the lecture/lab/apiary experience include:**

1. Attend the lectures and classroom labs only, no apiary experience, but if Certification is needed, you will have to pass a hands-on test at an apiary. The mandatory class labs include lighting a smoker, identifying insects, tasting honey, trying on bee suits, exploring the variations of hive components and hive tools and more.

2. Attend Lectures and classroom labs and participate at the apiary without having to interact with live bees.

Lab and Apiary Experiences will include: Spring: Installing a Package of Honey Bees, Management for Spring Honey Production, Swarm Management/ Preparation for Summer Honey Production, Maximizing Summer Honey Production, Installing bee escapes, Maximizing Fall Honey Production, Mid September: Honey Extraction and Processing, Late September: Bottling Honey Class & Homemade Products of the Hive, Winterization

3. Attend all lectures and all the classroom labs and then team up with fellow classmates and manage a hive. This experience may exceed the nine planned labs and apiary events that will be scheduled. Team members can check and explore their hive at times they feel appropriate. Your team will record all the events at the apiary and take pictures that will be posted on social media or other sites. **Bonus: your classmates will share 1/2 of the honey produced by your hive.**

**NOTE: You will be allowed to change the option you pick now once the class starts.** I realize as you may not have enough information at this time to make an informed decision. However, we would like to know your intent so we can plan accordingly.

### The course outline is as follows

Lectures and class labs will introduce students to theoretical knowledge of beekeeping. Lectures will take place at the Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension Office at 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd., Bldg. A. in Wauwatosa.

\* **These classes will be Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM to 8:30 or 9:00PM.**

\* **April 5: Lecture** - Insects, Honeybee Biology/Ecology & Hive Components/Equipment

\* **April 12:** Lab at Extension office - lighting smoker, hive components and more

\* **April 19: Lecture** - Constructing an Apiary & How to Install a Package of Honey Bees

\* **April 26:** Lab at Apiaries: cleaning hives and preparing hives for bees

**Week of May 1st:** Lab at apiaries: Installing bees when they arrive (dates depend on shipment date)

\* **May 10: Lecture:** Hive Management Techniques and more - Honey tasting at break

*The following dates for labs at the apiary are impossible to target because of the many variables of beekeeping. Firm dates will be set via email with at least one week advance notice or may be arranged by your "bee team"*

**May:** Lab at Apiaries, inspecting the hives looking for good patterns of new bees on the frames

**June and July:** Labs at apiaries, Inspections at the apiary looking at your hive for problems and progress

\***August 23 : Lecture**, removing frames for extraction, extraction process, products from the hive

**August:** Labs at apiaries, Continuing hive inspections and preparing to remove frames for extraction

**September:** Lab at office, extraction day

\***October 18: Lecture**, Winter Hive Preparation and celebration

This course will include a webinar on diseases and pests at a date to be determined

**Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited!** Please hand-deliver the form with payment or mail to:

**UWEX Milwaukee County—Bees**

**9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. Bldg. A,**

**Wauwatosa WI ,53226-3552.**

**Check payable to :**

**Milwaukee County UW-Extension Beekeeping**

Tuition fees cover all lectures, labs, printed materials, use of apiary, hives etc.

(PRINT CLEARLY)

Name, Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (to confirm registration): \_\_\_\_\_

**\$165.00 per person or \$250.00 for couples sharing a binder**

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My option for the class is (circle one) 1. 2. 3. Fee is the same for all options