



Welcome Montgomery County Beekeeper To the MoCo Mentor/Mentee Program

MCBA is very excited to provide the educational beginning to what we hope will be a lifelong hobby in Beekeeping!

Benefits:

- Assignment of a Mentor and access to a "group" of Mentors to ask questions and guide you through the beekeeping "learning curve".
- Group meetings that provide the tools and curriculum to complete most of the program.

Requirements for completion of this Program and its Rewards

You will find attached to this packet a list of categories (1-8), containing sub topics of which you will need to complete.

There is NO time limit for this program, nor do you have to have bees to participate.

You DO, however, need to meet the following requirements:

1. Montgomery County Beekeeper Member
2. Log Sheet submitted quarterly
3. Attending at minimum 1 meeting per quarter - (More would be better)
Excluding July (no meeting) & December (Christmas Party)
4. Keep ongoing communication with your Mentor via email or text

Reward!

- Montgomery County Beekeepers Association will present the Mentee with a "Graduation Certificate" and MoCo custom embroidered patch, as having completed the program.
- A chance to become a "Mentor" for MoCo Mentor/Mentee Program.
- Most of all...The knowledge required to successfully keep Honey Bees healthy and thriving!

If at any point your life gets in the way of your "fun", we ask you give your Mentor or Mentor Director(s) the courtesy of an email or phone call notifying them of your need to step away from the program. There is a great deal of planning and preparation that enables your experience with our program to be a good one, and we would appreciate the notice.

All Mentors are here to help you ~ respecting their personal time is important. Please keep phone calls to hours that work for your Mentor and utilize email as the "1st choice" of communication. ***Now, let's learn how to become a Beekeeper!***



MoCo Mentee Responsibility Requirements

Note: Each category has a number of specific requirements ~ as each requirement is met, enter a "confirmed" mark on your Log Sheet.

Log Sheets will be turned in each quarter to your Mentor

Note: Some category items will/can be conducted in "Group" activities

Verbal or written answers are accepted on ALL categories except Hive Inspection

1. Hive Components

- a. Know and be able to identify hive component by location & function
- b. Build or participate in building a hive body and frame with foundation
- c. Light a smoker

2. Bee Biology

- a. Know and be able to identify the caste of bees
- b. Know and be able to describe the life cycle of each caste (days from egg to emergence)
- c. Know and be able to tell the duties by age of the worker bee
- d. Describe how workers make wax, honey and propolis

3. Queen Bee

- a. Know and be able to describe a queen cell, supersedure cell and swarm cell
- b. Know and be able to tell the difference between them
- c. Know and be able to describe indications of a "failing queen", "queen-right" and "queen-less"
- d. Know and be able to describe at least one method of Queen rearing

4. Hive Inspection

- a. Participate in at least 1 Full Hive Inspection, record findings on Hive Inspection Checklist (provided) to be turned in with final Log Sheet
- b. Calculate the approximate amount of brood, honey and bees (independently) in a hive
- c. Know and be able to identify the difference in a worker brood cell and drone brood cell
- d. Know and be able to identify an egg, larvae and pupae
- e. Know and be able to list the "Resources" in a hive
- f. Know and describe and/or participate in the splitting of a colony



5. Feeding & Nutrition

- a. Know and be able to tell basic syrup formulas (1/1 and 2/1)
- b. Describe at least 2 feeding methods
- c. Know and be able to tell the Nutritional components required for Honey Bees
- d. Describe at least 3 Spring forage plants (both Nectar source and Pollen source)
- e. Describe at least 2 Fall forage plant(s) (both Nectar and Pollen source)

6. Pest Management

- a. Participate or describe 1 method for Varroa testing
- b. Know and be able to tell the formula for calculating Varroa mite counts
- c. Identify at least 2 Varroa Mite treatment methods
- d. Know and describe at least 2 different viruses caused by Varroa mites
- e. Identify the difference between Wax Moth larvae and Hive Beetle Larvae
- f. Describe at least 2 methods of treatment/prevention of both Wax moth and SHB
- g. Explain IPM (Integrated Pest Management) and at least 2 methods

7. Honey Extraction

- a. Participate or describe basic Honey Extraction
- b. Participate or describe good bottling practices and requirements for small scale Hobby Beekeepers

8. First Aid

- a. Know and be able to describe basic first aid for a Honey Bee sting



MoCo Mentee Log Sheet

Name: _____ Email: _____

Date started program: _____

Phone # _____

Mentor Name: _____

Log sheet to be emailed or handed to your Mentor or Mentor Director each quarter

- March
- June
- September
- December

Each Category will have "seasonal" aspects ~ Work with your Mentor to achieve these timely so they are complete when needed.

****MoCo Mentee pre meetings (6:15 prior to MoCo monthly meeting) will cover "most" of the requirements needed for completion of this program, less the Hive Inspection.**

Log each completed item ~

1. Hive Components

a b c

2. Bee Biology

a b c d

3. Queen Bee

a b c d

4. Hive Inspection

a b c d e f

5. Feeding & Nutrition

a b c d e

6. Pest Management

a b c d e f g

7. Honey Extraction

a b

8. First Aid

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