

February 29, 2020

Memphis Area Beekeepers Association

Dear NEW Beekeepers,

Beginning with the March Memphis Area Beekeepers' monthly meeting, a new class will be offered for those beginning beekeepers and any others who need to learn or review basic bee biology, the beekeeper's year, and bee diseases and treatments. The classes will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. when the regular monthly meeting is scheduled to start. For now, all classes will be held in the same Agricenter room as the regular monthly meeting with the Amphitheater being the room assigned for the March meeting.

The classes will be taught in succession with Bee Biology in March taught by Ron Savage, Beekeeper's Year in April taught by David Glover, and Bee Diseases in May taught by Stuart Hooser. The sequence will then be repeated.

Because there were so many first-time attendees at the January Short Course (101 was the official count I believe), Sammy Mardis has been asked to come to the March meeting and go back over how to build hive-bodies and assemble frames. He will additionally answer a simple question: What do I do when I receive the NUC I have ordered? Part of the answer will be the preparation necessary for the arrival of the NUC and the installation of it into the permanent hive-body once it has arrived. Following Sammy, Ron Savage will begin bee biology instruction that same evening.

The book that will be used for these classes is *Beekeeping For Dummies* by Howland Blackiston and is available [on Amazon for \\$13.99](#). Despite the title, at 375 rather large pages, this book can be daunting; however, the sheer size of the book is moderated by the author's writing in discreet and self-contained sections that can be read and understood independently, which is what will occur in this class. For instance, Bee Biology will utilize chapter 2 (24 pages) as the basis for instruction.

Because there are so many people and so few mentors, this class will additionally provide attendees with access to highly knowledgeable and experienced beekeepers who will answer any questions that emerge during the month between classes. In this way, some of the pressure on mentors will be alleviated while simultaneously getting beginners the answers they need to be successful at beekeeping.

Hoping to see you at the first class on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. . . .

Furniss Harkness, Corresponding Secretary, Memphis Area Beekeepers Association