



# • SnoKing Beekeepers Association

- Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays open to public on Zoom
- Find us on Facebook @SnoKingBeekeepers or contact: Eli Ocheltree, 206-859-7392, [eliochel@gmail.com](mailto:eliochel@gmail.com)

## Recommended Resources for Beekeepers updated 200907 eo

Check any resource for DATE, ORIGIN & GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, particularly proximity to Latitude 47° N and a cool maritime climate (not the Gulf Stream!)

### **Beekeeping web courses, free:**

[www.perfectbee.com](http://www.perfectbee.com) has free lessons and pay-to-view lessons. The free part is fairly detailed, easy & interesting to read, conceptual more than how-to, but worth the time to look at. The how-to appears to be in the pay lessons and might be a good buy.

[http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping\\_class/](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/beekeeping_class/) Ohio State Beekeepers Assn. is an introductory course of 34 short videos followed by 3 powerpoints on varroa, commercial beekeeping & the dynamics of pollination. Well-indexed by topic so it's easy for an intermediate beekeeper to find desired information. For a beginner, the whole series is worth watching.

<https://honeybee.uoguelph.ca/videos/video-list/> about 50 short videos on beginner to intermediate beekeeping topics. Some of the chemicals and procedures are not used in the US, so beware, but many useful techniques are shown and Guelph is about the same latitude 43°N and near the Great Lakes. Weather does not match the PNW but clear instructional videos on how to light a smoker, examine a hive, split, etc.

<https://extension.psu.edu/beekeeping-101> Penn State Beekeeping 101 was online free for a short time and I read through the entire course. It was okay if free but not worth \$159. It's listed as a 9-hour course but most of that is reading interspersed with review questions and short, unsatisfactorily incomplete videos. The reading is entertaining with details, trivia, concepts and ideas but short on practical how-to compared to other courses, so it might work as an introduction to beekeeping, but I just think there are free programs just as good and better for how-to. A \$10 "Beekeeping Basics" book is offered; it may be the course in print and because the course is mostly reading, that might give the same information as taking the course.

<https://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/bee/apprentice.php> The U of Montana beginning beekeeping course is the most expensive, ~\$325 for the course fee. The required textbook happens to be my #1 pick for a first book for beginning beekeepers, "Keeping Bees," 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed. The only reason for taking this program is to continue to the Journeyman and Master Beekeeping certifications, but you can take a test to challenge it to start with Journeyman. I challenged Apprentice to qualify to take Journeyman and Master. Journeyman could not be challenged so I had to pay the \$430. Because I had already completed WASBA Journeyman, kept bees for years and had a background in science and research, I didn't personally gain much from the course except qualifying for Master, which was my goal. I'm currently enrolled in the Master class. For more information to decide if Journeyman is right for you, call me and I will advise as best I can. Overall, I think there are much better sources of beekeeping information. 2 reasons you might take it, even though I don't recommend it for content: (1) some employers will reimburse for a college credit or university-sponsored course, and (2) it is the fastest track to getting a master beekeeping certificate recognized by WASBA, as little as 8 months to complete Journeyman & Master levels.

**Beekeeping in-person course:** Look for geographically local; not sales pitch; chance to ask questions; designed for experienced as well as beginner with multiple levels, possibly certification. SKBA will be offering them again as soon as possible but even in 2021 that may not be possible.

**Bee clubs with monthly meetings:** best source for beekeeping classes, for supply sources, networking and connections

Facebook groups: SnoKing Beekeepers Association SKBA group – ask to join on facebook or by emailing [eliochel@gmail.com](mailto:eliochel@gmail.com). You must live in or keep bees in Western WA to join; this is the only group that seems to require geographical location, which requirement keeps discussion on track.

**Libraries:** [www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org), [www.kcls.org](http://www.kcls.org) - both allowing curbside pickup of holds placed in advance

**Books – check for latest edition**

Best beginner books:

Storey's *Keeping Bees*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Malcom Sanford;  
*The Backyard Beekeeper*, Kim Flottum

**Books (cont.)**

Best advanced beginner or apprentice-level book:

*The Beekeeper's Handbook*, Diane Sammataro & Alphonse Avitabile  
Thomas Seeley, *Honey Bee Democracy*  
Larry Connor – *Swarm Essentials, Queen Essentials, Increase Essentials*

**Websites:** “.edu”

For children – free educator resources on internet

USDA ARS Baton Rouge Bee Lab <https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/baton-rouge-la/honeybeelab/>  
Grading Honey (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/extracted-honey-grades-and-standards>)  
MAAREC

**Best Beekeeper Blog:** HoneyBeeSuite.com, Rusty Burlew of Montana, Common sense explanations & discussions

Wikipedia article on "Pollen plants" – pollen colors chart

[www.cyberbee.net](http://www.cyberbee.net), Zachary Huang, great pics of bees and bee diseases

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/> webinars by Ohio State University

Honey Bee Healthy Coalition's Varroa Guide

**YouTube:** Keep 45° N in mind!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKQVs6-xm3mVNdW4Zt8McQ> A Canadian Beekeeper's Blog –  
beekeeping in the Land of the Midnight Sun. Okay, this not closely related to Western WA beekeeping but he's  
Ian Stepler is easy to listen to and gives an inside look at commercial beekeeping at ~49°N.

Frederick Dunn, mostly Q & A format, great photography, woodworking, all types of hives, always trying out a  
new idea, ~ 42°N and near Great Lakes

David Mendes, "PBC beekeepers fun night with David Mendes," Retired commercial beekeeper  
down south, explains annual cycle in commercial beekeeping

National Honey Show, British Beekeepers Association

Recommended presenters, often American: Tom Seeley, Heather Mattila, Juliana Rangel, David Tarpy  
Clarence Collision, Jamie Ellis, Michael Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2pL5NIRcw&t=123s> Dr Samuel Ramsey - Varroa feed on Fat Body -  
lecture at the INIB honey show 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnnjY823e-w&t=2183s> "Honey Bee Democracy," by Tom Seeley

**Government & publicly funded sources:** often fractured due to funding issues, so you may have to search.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1943/Interactive-Maps>, <https://gismaps.kingcounty.gov/parcelviewer2/>

WSU Agricultural Extension:

<http://bees.wsu.edu/>, <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/> - free online pdfs on bee topics

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

<https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/garden/master-gardener-program/>

Visit the **Extension Office**, 600 -128th St. SE, Everett 98208, or  
leave them a message at 425-357-6010:

will reopen after covid but still answering the phone & email

*9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F, April thru September; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. M-Th, October thru March;  
except holidays, the week of Thanksgiving and the last two weeks of December.*

**Sample testing:**

Washington State Agricultural Extension Service <http://bees.wsu.edu/diagnostic-lab/>

USDA Agricultural Research Service <https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/>

**Increasing honey yield:**

Productive Management of Honey-Bee Colonies, by C. L. Farrar, Entomology Research Division  
Agr. Res. Serv., U.S.D.A, 51pp: 2-queen strategy, queen introduction, etc.