

Syllabus

The Magic of the Hive

Beekeeping basics, Meru University 1711

Robert E. Beese

Importance of bees to our ecosystems and food supply

Social organization of the beehive/ The hive as a conscious being

Types of bees and their jobs

The Queen

Nurse bees and Workers

Drones

Tasks

Brood production

Support for the queen

Comb building

Fertilization

Pollen and nectar collection

Honey and pollen storage

Specialized tasks: Royal jelly

Guarding the hive

How to become a beekeeper

Equipment needed:

Types of hives and their purposes

Brood boxes and supers

Frames and foundation

Personal protective clothing

Hive management Tools

Obtaining Bees

Determining a reliable source for your bees.

Different types of bees, Italians, Russians, Africanized

Package bees and Nucs: pros and cons

Catching swarms (the most fun)

The Bees arrive

Best location for your hives

Introducing bees into the hive

Releasing the queen

Management during the first few weeks

What to look for as the bees adjust to their new home

Management of your bees throughout the year

Different philosophies regarding the interventions of the beekeeper

Commercial style or minimalist Natural approaches

The yearly cycle of the hive

Sources of forage and nectar

The honey flow and harvest

The honey harvest and extracting

Preparing for winter
Wintering your Bees

Challenges to the hive

Colony Collapse disorder

Varroa mites

Pesticides

Brood diseases

Monoculture agriculture

Animals

Future of Beekeeping

Harmonious respectful relationship between humans and the bees

Elimination of humanly induced stresses to the hive.