

HABA Bee School 2017 - Program Details

Meghan Milbrath, Ph. D **Keynote Speaker (AM)**

Dr. Meghan Milbrath owns and manages The Sand Hill Farm, a small livestock and queen rearing operation in Munith, Michigan. She began working bees with her father as a child over 20 years ago, and has been hooked on bees since. She is the coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative at Michigan State University, where she also recently worked as a postdoctoral research associate in the Entomology Department, studying honey bee disease with Dr. Zachary Huang. She is the coordinator of the Northern Bee Network, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable beekeeping in northern climates.



“Speaking Bee” (Morning Keynote Address)

Your bees can tell you what they need, or when they are doing well. You will be able to care for your bees the best if you can interpret the signals coming from the hive. It is up to the beekeeper to understand the signs coming from the hive, and to respond accordingly. Learning to understand what your bees are telling you allows you manage your animals depending on what they need, rather than trying to follow other's calendars, and will allow you to bee-come a successful beekeeper.



Charlotte Hubbard, Beekeeper & Author **Keynote Speaker (PM)**

Charlotte Hubbard, a beekeeper since 2008, keeps about 30 hives in SW Michigan. With a passion for both helping bees and new-bees succeed, she teaches at local, regional and state conferences. She is author of *Dronings from a Queen Bee* and the children's book *If I Could Sit on a Bee's Knees*. Charlotte is an active mentor, and provides seasonal tips and insights at www.hubbardhive.com, and on Facebook as 'Charlotte Hubbard, Beekeeper & Speaker ...'

“Top 15 things to know from the BEE-ginning” (Afternoon Keynote Address)

What are the top 15 things over 1,000 beekeepers wished they'd known before they started? Avoid common pitfalls, and learn from the stumbles and challenges of those who went before you.

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Recommended Breakout Sessions (Make sure to attend these 3 sessions in any order):

Handling Bees

This session covers what it takes to keep bees--from physical and emotional requirements, to costs, location selection, obtaining the little darlings, preparing for their arrival, successfully installing them and critical first month activities. *Instructor: Charlotte Hubbard / Don Lam*

Bee Equipment

We recommend new beekeepers start with Langstroth equipment. While we'll review why and other hive types, we'll focus on Langstroth--the purpose of and essential components versus what's nice to have. We'll also cover your essential protective equipment and tools. *Instructor: Rich Schaffer / Charlotte Hubbard*

Hive Inspection

This session will cover the best practices to perform an inspection, the timing to enter a hive, the tools to use, the opening and smoking and also the many observations needed, what to look for, queen, eggs, larvae, diseases, pests, healthy comb, etc. *Instructor: Chuck Bauer / Meghan Milbrath*

During the lunch break - Please visit the Hands-On - Building Equipment Room

In this room, we will have a few hands-on activities such as building/assembling frames and

Optional last Break-Out Session (your choice):

Bee Biology

Bees are fascinating creatures. Who resides in the hive? This session takes a basic look at the different inhabitants in the hive, their life cycle, anatomy and organization. We will also briefly discuss their modes of communication. *Instructor: Meghan Milbrath*

Resources

Where can new beekeepers find information? Where can you find bees? Local bees? What about a mentor? And equipment? Or perhaps a good book? This session will give beginning beekeepers a plethora of good and reliable resources. *Instructor: Rich Schaffer*

Record Keeping

How boring does this sound? However, you will soon realize this activity is not optional for beekeepers. We will cover the importance of keeping records, what sort of information should be recorded and different methods for successful (and unsuccessful) information retrieving. *Instructor: AM Fauvel*

Q & A

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This room will be staffed with experienced beekeepers to answer some of your burning questions and share their tips and experience. We will also have alternative hive types on display. *Instructors: The HABA Team*