Program Details

Meghan Milbrath, Ph. D, Keynote Speaker
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 Zachary Huang. She is an active member in the South East Michigan Beekeeping Association, the Center of Michigan Beekeeping Association, is the district 2 representative for the Michigan Beekeeping Association, is the acting president of the Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers and the coordinator of the Northern Bee Network, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable beekeeping in northern climates.

Healthy Bees (Keynote Address)
As a beekeeper, you want to make sure that your bees are in the best health. We will discuss the threats affecting bees, and the things you can do to make sure your bees are at their healthiest.

Breakout Sessions:

Alternative Hives, Informal Tales of Topbar Hives
This session is an informal discussion on alternative hives, mainly on topbar hives, evaluating the pros and cons of this beekeeping equipment and philosophy. *Instructors: Amber Snyder and Barry Miller*

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: Anne Marie Fauvel*

Bee Equipment
This presentation is an explanation of the makeup of a bee’s home, showing how each part is needed and used for the success of the hive, covering what is necessary to have and what is not. *Instructor: Dave Anthony*

Handling Bees
This session covers different kinds of bees and which would be best for you. We will also discuss how to install packages and nucs, seasonal care, feeding, neighbors and laws, hive location, bee suits and smokers. *Instructor: Don Lam*

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 as to what to look for, queen, eggs, larvae, diseases, pests, healthy comb, etc... *Instructor: Chuck Bauer*

Speaking Bee
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 be come a successful beekeeper. *Instructor: Dr. Meghan Milbrath*