

## Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - 6pm - Berkshire Botanical Garden

**Group Hive Check-in:** Open Q&A amongst beekeepers

**Adding/Increasing Hives:** Winter is the best time to prepare for any apiary expansions and planned hive losses. We will discuss the various options: packages, spring nucs, winter nucs, splits, swarm catchers. We will also discuss other options such as queen types and equipment for upgrades. Anyone planning to purchase packages or nucs should do so soon. We will discuss some options for ordering those as well as working together to pick up bees and other supplies this spring.

### **Upcoming beekeeping workshops and events:**

- **\*Creating a Varroa Management Plan** - Hannah Whitehead, Honey Bee Extension Educator
  - Saturday, March 9, 10am-noon at Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **Honey Bees under the Microscope** - UMass Honey Bee Extension Center
  - Saturday, February 9, 10am-noon at UMass Amherst
- **\*Utilizing Natural Queens and Making Nucs** with Jack Rath, Betterbee
  - Saturday, February 16, 10 am - noon at Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **\*Beekeeping 101: An Introduction to Beekeeping**
  - Saturday, March 16, 9 am - 4 pm at Berkshire Botanical Garden

\*Denotes a class held through Berkshire Botanical Garden. Register at [berkshirebotanical.org/events](http://berkshirebotanical.org/events).  
Contact the host organization for all other events.

### **Selected January beekeeping activities:**

- Check your bees' food supply. If your bees are at the top of the hive, they are likely low on food or too far from remaining food to get it. Add supplemental feed such as winter patties, dry sugar, fondant or candy boards. Do not remove any frames or break the cluster.
- On warm days (near or above 50 degrees), look for bees flying around the hive on cleansing flights and to remove dead bees from the hive.
- Ensure mouse guards are still in place. With the drastic temperature changes, it is advised to leave bear fences on.
- Fix, clean and inventory equipment. Order new supplies as needed.

**Select Notable Nectar Sources in November:** none

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 12 at 6pm