

## Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 - 6pm - Berkshire Botanical Garden

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

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

- **Various Classes at Betterbee** (Disease Management, Harvesting & Extracting, Winter Preparation) - Details at [betterbee.com](http://betterbee.com)
- **Fall Hive Management** - August 24, 10 am-noon - Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **UMass Pollinator Resources** (included classes throughout Massachusetts):
  - <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators>

**Visit from Kim Skrym**, Chief Apiary Inspector/Apiary Program Coordinator Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) Vice President. Kim will talk about the services he and his staff offer to beekeepers in the Massachusetts.

### **Selected August beekeeping activities:**

- Continue to inspect hives every 10 days to two weeks: confirm presence of queen, evaluate brood pattern, and ensure she has enough open comb to lay. Consider requeening if necessary. Betterbee usually has queens available through the end of August.
- Swarming is still possible in August or September. Although less common, it is much harder for hives to bounce back from a swarm at this time of year.
- As the late summer/fall flow from goldenrods, asters, and other late blooming flowers comes in, ensure hives have enough space to store honey and for the queen to lay. Consider extracting remaining summer honey as the fall flow starts.
- Reduce entrances, especially in times of nectar dearth or on weaker hives to discourage robbing.
- Keep plants mowed around hives and electric bear fences.
- If trapping pollen, fall is a good time to get extra pollen for late winter additions. Do not leave pollen traps on for more than one or two days a week to ensure they have enough to store.
- Monitor for pests including testing for Varroa levels. Consider treating if levels are above 3 mites per 100 bees.

**Select Notable Nectar and Pollen Sources in August:** goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*), asters (*Symphotrichum spp.*, *Eurybia spp.*, and *Doellingeria spp.*), Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), clovers, mint, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 10 at 6pm