

Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, July 9, 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
- **Fall Hive Management** - August 24, 10 am-noon - Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **UMass Pollinator Resources** (included classes throughout Massachusetts):
 - <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators>

Honey Extraction: Group discussion around tips and best practices when harvesting honey. If you have already harvested honey this season or have some particularly interesting honey from past years, bring it to share.

Selected July beekeeping activities:

- 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.
- Monitor for swarming, although this becomes *less* likely.
- Add supers to hives with full brood chambers.
- If hives are full and all available frames on hives (especially in the brood chambers), consider extracting some honey to make space.
- Consider splitting strong colonies or if intending to make nucs for next year.
- Keep plants mowed around hives and electric bear fences.
- Monitor for pests including testing for Varroa levels. Consider treating if levels are above 2 mites per 100 bees.

Select Notable Nectar and Pollen Sources in July: American Basswood, milkweed, chicory, purple loosestrife, sumac, closers, raspberries and blackberries, grapes, elderberry, tulip poplar, jewelweed, hairy and purple vetch, summersweet/sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, mints, Joe-Pye weed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 13 at 6pm