

## Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 - 6pm - Berkshire Botanical Garden

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

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

- **Mass. Beekeeping Association Summer Field Day** - June 15 - UMASS Agricultural Learning Center, 911 North Pleasant St., Amherst
- **Betterbee Annual Field Day** - June 26 - Washington County Fairgrounds, NY (various other programs throughout the summer)
- **Fall Hive Management** - August 24, 10 am-noon - Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **UMass Pollinator Resources** (included classes throughout Massachusetts):
  - <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators>

**Using Screen Bottom Boards:** Amy Musante will demonstrate the use of screened bottom boards using the BBG apiary.

### **Selected May 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.
- Add supers to hives with full brood chambers.
- Especially in new hives with little drawn comb, continue feeding until heavy nectar flow and during long rainy weeks.
- Consider splitting strong colonies.
- Ensure bear fences are on and working.
- Monitor for pests and start taking Varroa mite samples if not already done.

**Select Notable Nectar and Pollen Sources in May:** wild and cultivated *Prunus spp.* (including cherry, peach and plum), *Pyrus spp.* (pear), *Malus spp.* (apple and crabapple), *Vaccinium spp.* (blueberry), *Tubus spp.* (raspberry and blackberry), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tulip poplar), *Trifolium spp.* (clovers), *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelions), *Fragaria virginiana* (wild strawberry), *Quercus spp.* (oak), *Lonicera spp.* (honeysuckle), *Sambucus spp.* (elderberry), and many others.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 11 at 6pm