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](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