

Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 6pm - Berkshire Botanical Garden

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

Upcoming beekeeping workshops and events:

- **ThinkFOOD Conference (Thomas Seeley is the keynote speaker)** - April 13 - 9:30am-4:30pm
- Fisher Science Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington
- **Fight the Mite!** - May 4, 2019 - 9am-3pm, UMass Amherst
- **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
- **Fall Hive Management** - August 24, 10 am-noon - Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **UMass Pollinator Resources** (included classes throughout Massachusetts):
 - <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators>

Keeping Records: Share your record keeping strategies, success, and goals for this year.

Selected April beekeeping activities:

- Ensure bear fences are on and working.
- Queens should be laying. If not, consider requeening.
- Continue feeding if stores are low until nectar is consistently coming into the hive.
- Insulation, hive wraps, and mouse guards can be removed as colony size increases.
- Clean out hives while numbers are still low: brush off bottom boards, scrape propolis off frames and hive bodies, replace frames as needed.
- If installing new nucs or packages, ensure equipment is ready before they arrive.

Select Notable Nectar and Pollen Sources in April: Maples, crocuses, willows, skunk cabbage, and witch hazel are most notable. Others may become available near the end of the month, depending on the weather.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14 at 6pm (possibly outside and with bees!)