

Agenda with Session Descriptions

Saturday, October 19, 2019 - Morning

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Masterman, University of Minnesota

Mighty Mites vs. Mightier Beekeepers: Updates from the Mite Fighting Front

Auditorium

It is hard to discuss honey bees without talking about *Varroa destructor*. The Bee Squad has been tracking these mites through management of urban, suburban and rural colonies across the Twin Cities in Minnesota since 2012. Masterman will share what the Bee Squad has learned about Varroa as well as updates from their collaborative MiteCheck program, a national collaborative, beekeeper citizen science project.

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Vendors (Lobby)

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Session #1

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! – Dave Pearce, *Local Buzz Bees & Honey*

Auditorium

Beekeeping can keep you active and fit, help improve pollination in your garden and neighborhood, and provide you with honey and other products of the hive. But beekeeping, like all forms of agriculture, requires knowledge, continuing education, mentoring, and a commitment to beekeeping best practices. Learn what it takes to get started in this rewarding endeavor, and find out if beekeeping is right for you.

Tanzanian-style Top Bar Hives in Michigan Backyards – Margaret A. Szedenits & Eugene Szedenits, Jr.

Room 101

We will cover the construction and operation of our version of the Tanzanian top bar hive. You will learn about how we install our bees, harvest our honey, and control for and treat mites. We will discuss the differences between the traditional Langstroth hives and the Tanzanian top bar hive.

Detroit Bee Highway: Urban Beekeeping During Detroit's Renaissance - Brian Peterson-Roest, *Bees in the D*

Rooms 103 & 123

Businesses in Detroit have begun to understand the importance of being "green" and sustainable by building green roofs, planting urban gardens, and yes, fostering beehives! You'll learn how Bees in the D created various rooftop, urban garden, and educational apiaries throughout the city, and the challenges of managing 150 urban hives.

Products of the Hive - Rich Wieske, *Green Toe Gardens*

Rooms 105 & 121

It's common knowledge that our bees make honey, but that they also provide us with wax, pollen, royal jelly, propolis and venom. You will learn more about these products and why they are not only beneficial to our health, but can augment our income.

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch

Washtenaw Community College

Morris J. Lawrence Building
4800 E. Huron River Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

***Tentative Schedule and may be subject to change.*

Agenda with Session Descriptions

Saturday, October 19, 2019 - Afternoon

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Masterman, University of Minnesota

Bee Squad: Engaging Beekeepers and the Public to Support Bee Health

Auditorium

Bee health is complicated. Bee issues and their solutions are not always straightforward. From planting flowers to outreach efforts and honey bee management strategies, learn about the creative ways that the Bee Squad employs to help others support bees.

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Vendors (Lobby)

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Session #2

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! — Dave Pearce, *Local Buzz Bees & Honey*

Auditorium

Beekeeping can keep you active and fit, help improve pollination in your garden and neighborhood, and provide you with honey and other products of the hive. But beekeeping, like all forms of agriculture, requires knowledge, continuing education, mentoring, and a commitment to beekeeping best practices. Learn what it takes to get started in this rewarding endeavor, and find out if beekeeping is right for you.

The Flow Hive - Vicki Rudolf & Cindy Schroeder

Room 101

Flow Hive is a revolutionary beehive invention. Learn how it can harvest fresh honey without opening the beehive, with minimal disturbance to the bees. "Less labor, more love", they say.

Detroit is the place to Bee! - Tim Jackson & Nicole Lindsey

Rooms 103 & 123

By transforming vacant lots into bee farms and through their social platform, in less than two years Detroit Hives has educated over 1 million people about bees. You will learn about the role of beekeeping in the Urban Agricultural movement happening in Detroit.

Biodynamic Beekeeping - Eileen Dickinson & Caitlin Dickinson

Rooms 105 & 121

Foundational concepts of biodynamic beekeeping will be introduced and discussed, along with practical ways to implement these beekeeping methods for the health of the bee.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Vendors (Lobby)

Washtenaw Community College

Morris J. Lawrence Building
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Session Presenter Bios

Saturday, October 19, 2019 - Morning

Session #1

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! – Dave Pearce, *Local Buzz Bees & Honey*

Dave was first introduced to beekeeping through Ed Nowak in 2008. After a few years of struggling to keep his bees alive and well he decided to seriously pursue the concept of maintaining a sustainable apiary. Through disciplined study, mentorship, club membership and hands on learning he gained valuable knowledge and experience to help him attain his goals.

Being a high school teacher, he began educating others on the art of bee keeping. In 2017 Dave became the lead instructor for the Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers bee school. Through lectures and hands on practice mixed with antidotal facts, stories and humor, Dave teaches both Beginner and Intermediate beekeepers how to raise strong, balanced and healthy hives.

Due to his contributions to the beekeeping community he received the award of the 2019 District II Beekeeper of the Year. In 2015 Dave began his business, "Local Buzz Bees & Honey. " Every Spring he supplies beekeepers in Southeast Michigan with both package bees and nucs. And, of course, he sells honey. www.LocalBuzzBees.com

Tanzanian-style Top Bar Hives in Michigan Backyards – Margaret A. Szedenits & Eugene Szedenits, Jr.

A fondness for honey in childhood inspired a lifelong curiosity about beekeeping. After we, city kids, married and moved to the country we finally found time to indulge that curiosity with firsthand experience. Rather than follow the usual advice to begin beekeeping with Langstroth we started straightaway with horizontal top bar hives and have kept bees in them for eight years. The appeal to us as backyard beekeepers was and remains better ergonomics, natural comb, and ease of DIY.

Detroit Bee Highway: Urban Beekeeping During Detroit's Renaissance - Brian Peterson-Roest, *Bees in the D*

Brian Peterson-Roest, cofounder of the Detroit non-profit Bees in the D, will talk about beekeeping in Detroit. He will discuss his partnerships with residents, schools, and businesses throughout SE Michigan, and the role Bees in the D is playing to help bring the art of beekeeping to the skyline of Detroit.

Founded in 2016 by Brian Peterson-Roest and Brian Roest-Peterson, Bees in the D has placed hives at 51 locations. Bees in the D, a local Detroit 501(c) 3 non-profit, consists of a 10 member board, and is 100% volunteer run. Their beekeeping team has over 50 years combined experience. Conservation of local pollinators, and especially honeybees, through public education is the mission of Bees in the D. All donations and proceeds from the sale of their honey and organic lip balms, which are crafted with their own beeswax, go back to the non-profit for educational programs.

Bees in the D has installed honeybee hives on rooftops at Cobo Center, Detroit Foundation Hotel, Bedrock Detroit's iconic Free Press Building, and along the Dequindre Cut at the Michigan DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center. Their hives can also be found in urban gardens at Detroit Abloom, Michigan Urban Farming Initiative (MUF), and in Detroit's historic Palmer Park. Bees in the D also has partnerships with the big 3 automakers: GM, Ford, and Fiat-Chrysler.

Brian Peterson-Roest has been beekeeping for over 10 years. He is a 5th grade teacher and an adjunct professor at Oakland University. Brian is also the recipient of the State of Michigan Elementary Science Teacher of the Year Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, awarded by former President, Barack Obama. He is currently the President of the Michigan Science Teacher Association.

Products of the Hive - Rich Wieske, *Green Toe Gardens*

Rich Wieske is the MBA District 3 Representative. He has been a bee activist for nearly two decades. As co-owner of Green Toe Gardens, he manages around 80 hives in Detroit and southeast Oakland County. Green Toe Gardens also maintains the hives at the Belle Isle Nature Center, the Crosswind's Marsh, for the Wayne County Airport Authority, as well as the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House. Rich is Past President of Heartland Apicultural Society and is currently serving as Director of SEMBA's outstanding Bee School.

Session Presenter Bios

Saturday, October 19, 2019 - Afternoon

Session #2, continued

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! – Dave Pearce, *Local Buzz Bees & Honey*

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The Flow Hive - Vicki Rudolf & Cindy Schroeder

Because their father was a beekeeper 50 years ago, Cindy and Vicki grew up eating raw honey and chewing bee wax. Because of their love of honey, the sisters attended Meghan Milbrath's seminar on "Backyard Beekeeping" at WCC, and decided to become beekeepers, themselves. Cindy is the treasurer for the Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers and Vicki is a member at large. With four years experience with the Flow Hive, they will share how to enjoy this unusual way of keeping healthy bees and taking honey.

Detroit is the place to Bee! - Tim Jackson & Nicole Lindsey

Timothy Jackson is a proud and resilient Detroit Native. In 2017 he co-founded Detroit Hives; a Michigan 501c3 nonprofit working to strengthen communities and bee populations. Detroit Hives has gained international recognition from the British Beekeeping Association, the American Beekeeping Association and National Geographic.

When Detroit native Nicole Lindsey learned of the bee population decline, she knew she had to spring into action. Always enamored by the majesty of bees, Nicole recognized the importance of increasing awareness of the dwindling pollinators and their processes. Since co-founding the Detroit Hives in January of 2017, Nicole has served as an educator and beekeeper, focused on teaching people about the crucial role of honeybees in our environment and dispelling the negative stigmas about bees. She is a proud member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is dedicated to educating children and establishing a new generation of leaders in sustainability.

Biodynamic Beekeeping - Eileen Dickinson & Caitlin Dickinson

Eileen has been a lifelong gardener and biodynamic beekeeper since 2010. She was in the first Sustainable Biodynamic Beekeeping Training (2 year program) at Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary. Currently she is in the Mentorship Program at Spikenard. She organized a study group in Ann Arbor to gather beekeepers together who are interested in pursuing BD beekeeping. She currently manages hives in her backyard (horizontal top bar, Langstroth) and in the gardens of several of her friends and family (Warre, horizontal top bar). Her approach to backyard beekeeping is beecentric. Eileen, along with a neighbor, organized Bee Safe Neighborhoods in Ann Arbor, and her neighborhood is now considered Bee Safe.

Caitlin has been tending bees for 6 years, and spent a year training with Gunther Hauk and Alex Tuchman at Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary, a biodynamic farm in Floyd, Virginia. She is the beekeeper at Community Farm of Ann Arbor, and has several hives in backyards and farms in the Ann Arbor area.
