



Sustainable Biodynamic Beekeeping Training

*Actually, every human being should show the greatest interest in this subject,
because much more than you can imagine, our lives depend upon beekeeping.*

Rudolf Steiner, "Bees" 1923

SPIKENARD  FARM
HONEYBEE SANCTUARY

SUSTAINABLE/BIODYNAMIC BEEKEEPING TRAINING

Objectives of this training are to deepen the understanding of the honeybees and the laws of nature, which are the laws of life, in order to arrive at appropriate beekeeping practices able to strengthen the honeybee's compromised immune system and restore health to the extent that external factors of our environment and culture permit. The training will go beyond traditional/organic/natural beekeeping methods, and will explore beekeeping methods that will bring us and the Honeybees into the future. A new way of relating to the animal kingdom is dictated by the needs of our times. The overarching goal of healing will lead us into a deeper understanding of the most holistic way of enlivening the landscape and forage for the pollinators: biodynamic agriculture.

The training will have a total of 4 sessions (3 days each), two in 2017 and two in 2018. Each session will include practical experience with our bees as well as artistic activities, in order to train our sense of observation, a necessary tool for rising above 'recipes'. After completion of the four sessions, including their requirements, the training will finish with a **Certificate for Biodynamic/Sustainable Beekeeping**. As these sessions are conceived as an organic whole, they can only be taken in proper sequence.

Contents: Topics will include, but are not limited to:

1) **Beekeeping**

- * The colony as a super organism
- * Hive management through the year
- * Necessity for swarming and natural queens
- * The mystery of honey and wax
- * The honeybee as integral part of our evolution
- * Working with the "Great Bee"
- * Honeybee diseases, challenges, natural treatments
- * Ways to strengthening the immune system
- * Caring for all pollinators by creating habitat and forage
- * Mites, hive beetles, parasitic flies: symptoms and possible solutions
- * Exploration of different hive forms

2) **Biodynamic Agriculture**

- * Making some of the preparations, stirring and application
- * Understanding the healing and harmonizing effects of these preps
- * Exploring how this can affect the Bee colony

3) **Anthroposophical Overarching Topics**

- * World evolutionary rhythms and cycles
- * Sacred Geometry and innate significance of the numbers 3,4,6,7
- * Exploration into the 4 elements and 4 ethers
- * Threefold & Fourfold Human being

*Please visit our website www.spikenardfarm.org for more information.
Email us at info@spikenardfarm.org or call 540-745-2153.*



Requirements:

- * Participants are required to have their own bees, or keep bees.
- * For those fairly new to beekeeping, familiarity with a basic beekeeping manual (e.g. Richard Bonney's "*Hive Management*", or Howland Blackiston's "*Beekeeping for Dummies*") is expected.
- * Rudolf Steiner's lectures "Bees" should be read before the 1st session.
- * In the course of the training, other reading will be assigned.
- * Homework will be assigned between the sessions.

Dates:

2017: June 15-17; August 3-5

2018: June 14-16; August 2-4

Tuition: Total tuition cost: \$1,280. Discount for couples: \$1,120 each. This price includes lunch, snacks, and teaching materials. Breakfast, supper, and lodging are not included.

Registration: A fee of \$640 (couples \$560 each) has to be paid by May 1, 2017 to secure a place. The remaining \$640 (couples \$560 each) has to be paid by October 31, 2017. We offer a \$150 discount for those who are able to pay the full \$1,280 by May 1, 2017 (make the check out for \$1,130, couples \$970 each). We do not issue refunds for the SBBT. Please send registration form (separate form!) and materials to Spikenard Farm, 445 Floyd Highway North, Floyd, VA 24091.

Location: All four sessions will take place at Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary, located at 401 Hideaway Lane, Floyd VA 24091. The sanctuary is located 9 miles from the town of Floyd.

A detailed schedule will be available beginning of June. A minimum of 15 participants is required to offer this training, and a maximum of 25 will be accepted.



TESTIMONIALS



Spikenard Bee Sanctuary is a holy place. There is an amazing amount of love, wisdom, understanding and insight that the stewards, working there, have to share. Treating bees and the earth with reverence, and gratitude is the example they set. I will be forever changed from spending two years in the Sustainable Biodynamic Beekeeper Training at Spikenard. ~SBBT Student

As a graduate of the first 2-year beekeeping program at Spikenard, I am continually impressed by the depth and breadth of the learning every time I visit this special place. The love and care that goes in to the Sanctuary, and all that it offers for people, plants and pollinators, is extraordinary. The atmosphere in classes is spacious, the scenery spectacular, the food nourishing, and the teaching outstanding.
~SBBT Student

I was drawn to Spikenard because I wanted to be a steward to the bees... I learned more than I anticipated...during my two-year training. I come back every year to learn more. What a rejuvenating experience. ~S.W.

It's not easy finding someone to teach a beekeeper how to work with the bees responsibly, sustainably. Spikenard fills that niche with their warm and expert trainings. Spikenard is not static in its methods, for they are constantly evolving to help not just the honeybee, but the humans, animals, plants and the earth itself with the recognition that what affects one affects all others. I completed the two year Sustainable Beekeeping training and I return every year for workshops to learn more. I'm grateful for Gunther, Vivian, Alex and everyone at Spikenard. ~L.M.

