

# 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 2019 and two in 2020. 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'. 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](http://www.spikenardfarm.org) for more information.*

*Email us at [info@spikenardfarm.org](mailto: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:**

Session 1: June 6-8, 2019

Session 2: August 22-24, 2019

Session 3: June 4-6, 2020

Session 4: August 6-8, 2020

**Tuition:** Total tuition cost: \$1,440. Discount for couples: \$1,260 each. This price includes lunch, snacks, and teaching materials. Breakfast, supper, and lodging are not included.

**Registration:** A fee of \$720 (couples \$630 each) has to be paid by May 1, 2019 to secure a place. The remaining \$720 (couples \$630 each) has to be paid by October 31, 2019. We offer a \$150 discount for those who are able to pay the full \$1,440 by May 1, 2018-(make the check out for \$1,290, couples \$1,110 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.