**Beginning Beekeeping**

**Presented by Larry Chismar**

**Have you ever thought about being a beekeeper but you just don’t know where to start? Beekeeping is a very rewarding hobby with great benefits such as plant pollination and fresh, very local, sweet honey to place on your kitchen table. This class will include basic information on equipment, site selection, and the ongoing maintenance tasks associated with keeping honeybees.**

**Instructor Larry Chismar is a hobby beekeeper who lives in the Crosby/Deerwood area. In 2017 he had nineteen active bee hives. He has been a beekeeper in this area for the last ten to twelve years. In addition to tending his own hives, he often mentors new beekeepers to help them get off to a good start. He is an active member of the North Central Beekeeper’s Association and for several years has served as the Treasurer.**

**Honeybees:**

* **Biology**
* **Castes**
* **Life Stages**

**Beekeeping Background:**

* **Equipment**
* **Hive Considerations**

**Beekeeping Activities**

* **Installing**
* **Feeding**
* **Smoke**
* **Inspecting**
* **Harvesting**
* **Wintering**

**Beekeeping Management:**

* **Pests**
* **Diseases**
* **Chemicals**
* **Integrated Pest Management**
* **The Beekeeper’s Year**

**Hive Building:**

* **Hive stand (base support for a bee hive)**
* **Bottom board (the floor of a bee hive)**
* **Entrance Reducer (used to regulate the size of the bottom entrance)**
* **Deep or Brood box (brood chamber for the queen to lay eggs)**
* **Queen excluder (confirms the queen to the brood chamber)**
* **Super (box for honey storage)**
* **Inner cover (creates dead air space for insulation)**
* **Telescoping cover (protects the hive from rain and harsh weather)**

**Definitions:**

* **“Bee Bread” – Pollen mixed with various liquids and sealed in comb for later use as a protein source for larvae and young bees**
* **“Brood” – Immature stages (eggs, larvae, pupae) not yet emerged from cells**
* **“Honey” – Evaporated nectar stored in cells. It contains approximately 17% water with the rest being solids**
* **“Nectar” – Sugar (a carbohydrate) gathered from plants**
* **“Pollen” – Dust like substance (a protein) that comes from the male reproductive cell bodies of flowers**
* **“Propolis” – Resin collected from trees and mixed with wax and pollen. Used to varnish the hive, seal cracks, cement things together, and sterilize the hive against infection. Kills mold and bacteria. It is one of the most powerful antibiotics found in nature**
* **“Royal Jelly” – White creamy liquid secreted by nurse bees. Queen bees live exclusively on royal jelly**

**Resources:**

* **North Central Beekeeper’s Association, P.O Box 294, Brainerd, MN 56401** [**http://www.northcentralbeekeepers.com**](http://www.northcentralbeekeepers.com) **This group meets the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm, at the Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd, MN, 56401, Telephone: 218-829-8770. Visitors welcome. Membership fees are currently at $10.**
* **University of Minnesota Bee Laboratory -** [**http://beelab.umn/beesquad**](http://beelab.umn/beesquad)
* **Beekeeping equipment is available from a number of sources. One such supplier is: Mann Lake Ltd, 501 1st Street South, Hackensack, MN, 56452 -2589, Telephone: 800-880-7694**