

Bee College Information

The most extensive honey bee educational event in the state of Florida is back! Members of the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory have organized the 2nd Annual Bee College, which will be held March 20–21, 2009, at the UF Whitney Laboratory. This year the Bee College has doubled! The two-day event features over 40 lectures, classes, and workshops given by nationally recognized experts and sought-after speakers. This program promises to be rewarding to beekeepers and nonbeekeepers alike. While much of the subject matter is directed toward beekeepers, several of the courses have been designed for those with limited or no beekeeping experience.

This year's Bee College will be valuable to beekeepers (regardless of expertise), pest control operators, master gardeners, master naturalists, county agents, and anyone else interested in learning about honey bees. We designed the Bee College in such a way to teach people with limited/no bee knowledge how to keep bees. Beginner classes include: bee biology, yearly colony management, bee pests/diseases, rules for keeping bees in Florida, beekeeping gadgets, and honey extraction. For the more experienced beekeepers, we include classes on pollination ecology, how to diagnose bee diseases in one's own colonies (using microscopes), and sustainable beekeeping. We truly do have something for everyone!

Also, be sure to enter your honey (or other item!) into the 2nd annual statewide Bee College Honey Show (see details in this brochure). The winners will be announced and awards will be given at the Friday evening banquet, which will also include live bluegrass music and a catered dinner.

Another new facet of the 2009 Bee College is the Friday afternoon African bee training for first responders and the Saturday morning African bee service training for PCOs. Both courses are included in the price of the Bee College; however, we offer reduced fees if you (or your company/department) wish to attend ONLY one of these trainings (see registration form for details).

This year our exhibitor tables are VERY affordable. The Bee College attracts honey bee enthusiasts from all over the country, so if you produce quality honey, mead, wax molds or candles, other hive products, or bee-related arts/crafts, you or your organization should consider hosting an exhibitor booth!

Honey Judging Information

Coupled with the UF Bee College Honey Show will be training for Welsh Honey Judging Certification. Welsh Honey Judge Training is the most stringent training for would-be honey judges in the world. Training for the Welsh Honey Judge Examination will be offered on FRIDAY ONLY. Entry-level students are given the opportunity during the Bee College to complete the first two of four requirements: (1) attendance in the Friday afternoon training, (2) documented experience as a steward (judge's assistant), (3) documented experience as a senior honey show judge, and (4) successful completion of the oral examination. For students participating in this year's training, Requirement 3 can be fulfilled at their own pace, and the oral examination (Requirement 4) will be offered at the 2010 Bee College.