Workshops for Experienced Beekeepers offered this season at Warm Colors Apiary, South Deerfield, MA.

For more information and on-line registration: [www.warmcolorsapiary.com](http://www.warmcolorsapiary.com)

Or email Dan Conlon at warmcolors@verizon.net

Spring & Summer Management – May 19, 2019 1-3:30 PM – appropriate for all beekeepers.

A review of spring tasks, including hive evaluation, feeding and prevention of disease. Honey production, swarm prevention and early activities commonly performed during spring and summer. Bring protective clothing for bee yard demonstrations. Handouts included.

* How to grow your colony – proper feeding, adding space, Queen performance.
* Conducting a proper inspection – importance of recordkeeping and researching tasks.
* Mite sampling, importance of early detection of disease, honey bee defenses.
* Swarm prevention & control.
* Making colony “splits” and Nucs for apiary expansion.
* Increasing honey production – knowing the plants that produce the nectar flows, honey supering techniques, when to extract the honey harvest.

***Cost: Program & Handouts $35.***

**Queens Management & Evaluation – July 7, 2019 1 – 3:30 PM – appropriate for third season beekeepers. Beginners welcome.**

The Queen’s ability to lay eggs, pass desirable behaviors (through her genetics) to workers and drones, make her the most important member of a colony. The beekeeper must be able to evaluate Queen performance, and recognize when a Queen must be replaced. We will discuss Queen development, mating & drones, and evaluation by measuring brood comb, and worker behavior.

We will also provide instruction on raising Queens for the small apiary. In the bee yard we will demonstrate simple techniques to raise daughters from your best performing Queen. The use of Queen cells, creating emergency conditions to stimulate Queen rearing in the colony, and using Nucs to raise a few Queens will be covered.

Follow up volunteer opportunities will be scheduled for those participants wanting to work with Dan raising Queens at Warm Colors apiary.

* Queen care and handling – comb, nurse bees, and nectar.
* Marking queens – age, visual, and genetic lineage.
* Predicting worker populations & swarming.
* Large scale Queen production.
* Small scale Queen production – the true locally grown Queen.
* What makes an excellent Queen? Genetics, development and drones.

***Program, Textbook & Handout: $50.***

Fall & Winter Management – August 4th, 2019 1-3:30 PM – appropriate for all levels of beekeeping.

The final exam for beekeepers is preparing hives for winter. This begins in early fall when there is still time to correct problems. Queen evaluation, feeding and winter food reserves, lack of mites and disease will be explained. Wrapping & insulating hives, location, and equipment will be discussed. Bring protective clothing for bee yard. Handout included.

* What does a healthy hive look like?
* Queen, worker population, food reserves and size of colony.
* Varroa mites & Nosema disease key factors in wintering colonies.
* Thermoregulation in the hive – masters of temperature control.
* External conditions – fencing, wind breaks, sunshine, wrapping & insulating hives.

***Cost: Program & Handouts $35.***