

## Course Outline

Sustainable Urban Beekeeping Certificate | Coordinator: Peggy Harowitz

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### Getting Started in Beekeeping (BEEP1001)

**Instructor** Brian Campbell

**Hours** 5 Hours

**Grading** Pass/Fail

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#### Course Description

This course is intended to help you learn the essentials of how to get started, what tools and equipment you'll need and where to get them, the main activities in the beekeepers year, the laws and bylaws governing keeping bees; discover the principles of sustainable beekeeping and how these principles can guide your beekeeping into an enduring practice.

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain what they need in order to get started in beekeeping
- Describe the laws around beekeeping in Vancouver
- Discuss the responsibilities of urban beekeepers
- Identify where to purchase equipment and demonstrate how to assemble it
- Name and identify major parts of the honeybee such as the stinger or mandibular parts
- Describe bee biology and anatomy from the perspective of managing bees
- Describe the importance of wax and identify what to look for in comb during hive inspections

#### Detailed Course Content, Topics and Sequence Covered:

- Introductions
- Sustainable beekeeping
- Allergies: Essential information
- The BC Bee Act
- Municipal bylaws
- Siting your apiary
- Equipment and tools
- Where to find bees: packages, nucs, and hives, trapping and catching swarms
- How to buy bees
- Help, resources and suppliers

## BEEP 1001 Course Outline

- Bees, the big picture
- Honeybee species, their distribution and differences
- The colony as super organism
- The natural history of honeybees in North America
- Caste members: workers, drones, the queen and beeswax
- *Microscopic examination of the honeybee*

Method of Delivery      In class

### Evaluation Criteria And Grading

Evaluation for this course is on a pass/fail basis.

Field Experience – 50%

Participation - 50%

### Reading

*Honey Bee Diseases and Pests, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.* Canadian Assoc. of Professional Apiculturalists

### Instructor Profile

Brian Campbell, the lead instructor, is the founder of Blessed Bee Apiaries and the Bee School. He became immersed in the rich and amazing world of bees while he and his four sons spent many a glorious day observing the curious activities of bees, noticing the bees' consistent patterns, collective activities, and the surprising comparisons to our own human patterns and behaviours. He is a Certified Beemaster and beekeeper, and heavily involved in food security issues in Richmond and the Lower Mainland.

Brian guest lectures for UBC Farm's Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture, for adult education at VanDusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver, for Kwantlen's Richmond Farm School and teaches young people in the city about honeybees as well as native types. He is a former president of the Richmond Beekeepers Association, a member of the Master Gardener Association of BC, Sustainable Gardening and Bee Master to West Coast Seeds, and offers classes in grafting fruit trees, food preserving and other farm skills.