



2026 Athens Beginners Beekeeping Seminar

In partnership with the Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association and the UGA Bee Lab

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 | 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Garden Club of Georgia, Terrace Room

Beekeeping is a complex and fascinating pursuit with plenty to learn and sweet rewards! If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper yourself, this comprehensive seminar featuring Georgia Master Beekeepers and industry professionals will prepare you to establish and manage a successful apiary. This workshop will guide you through understanding the honey bee as well as the steps to obtain your bees, tools and hives. This program will also cover harvesting, various hive products and how to use them. Participants will also learn about proper care and some of the common challenges facing beekeepers today.

Each participant will receive a box lunch, a copy of First Lessons in Beekeeping and a one-year membership to Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association. As a bonus, all participants will have the opportunity to participate in a follow-up, hands-on class at a nearby apiary on March 21.

Program Agenda

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| 9 – 9:15 a.m. | Welcome & Announcements
<i>State Botanical Garden of Georgia education team & Dan Long, Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association</i> |
| 9:15 – 10 a.m. | An Introduction to Honey Bee Biology
<i>Lewis Bartlett, PhD, research scientist, entomology & ecology departments, UGA</i>
This talk will cover the basic biology of honey bees. Topics covered in this presentation will include honey bee anatomy, behavior, diet and different types of bees in the hive. |
| 10 – 10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:15 – 11 a.m. | Equipment – What do I Need? Getting Started in the Bee Yard
<i>David Hollomon, Georgia master beekeeper</i>
David will discuss equipment needs and options for new beekeepers as well as where to source equipment including the bees. |
| 11 – 11:15 a.m. | Break |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. | A Year in the Apiary
<i>Anne Frey, EAS master beekeeper and head beekeeper, Betterbee</i>
Anne will present an overview of a full year with honey bees. Everyone is excited about beekeeping in Spring but it takes effort in the "off season", too. Learn the important tasks of every season. |
| 12 – 12:15 p.m. | What's for Sale from Lanier Bee Barn?
<i>Harold Lanier, owner, Lanier Bee Barn</i> |
| 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch & Lanier Bee Barn Sale |
| 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. | Understanding the Diseases and Pests that Infect and Infest Honey Bees
<i>Jennifer Berry, adjunct professor and lab manager, UGA Honey Bee Program</i>
Jennifer will provide an overview of major honey bee disease organisms and pests. Her presentation will also cover management methods to keep your bees healthy and alive. |
| 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. | The Beautiful Bounty of the Hive
<i>Marcus Pollard, Georgia master beekeeper</i>
Honey is the ubiquitous golden treat that is world renowned, but did you know there are MANY other treats that come from our little fuzzy friends? Come learn all the wonderful things the bees have in store! |
| 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. | Closing Remarks & Adjourn |

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