

**BASIC BEEKEEPING PRINCIPLES FOR BEGINNERS**  
**Snoqualmie Valley Beekeepers Monthly Beginners Sessions**  
**Robert Clark**

To provide an integrated approach to the SVB Beginners Sessions at each monthly meeting, Robert Clark will provide a preview of what beginning beekeepers should do for each upcoming month, based on an annual, local beekeeping management calendar from February through November. Sessions will last 30 minutes: about 15 minutes for upcoming colony activities followed by 15 minutes of questions and answers.

Emphasis will be on basic principles of how honeybees respond to beekeepers' manipulations and actions. Once these principles are understood, then the beekeeper can decide how to keep and enjoy their bees successfully. If the questions warrant it, future sessions may include breaking out into small discussion groups headed by an advanced beekeeper.

**Preliminary Schedule for 2014**

**FEBRUARY**

- Checking the Health of the Overwintered Colony
  - Externally – Pollen & Weight
  - Internally – Stores & Cluster
  - Cleaning – Bottom Board
- Preparing for the Coming Spring
  - Feeding, if necessary
  - Ordering Bees and Equipment
  - Assembling Equipment
  - Taking Beekeeping Classes

**MARCH**

- Spring Management
  - Honey and Pollen vs. Starvation
  - Feeding for Survival
  - Feeding for Stimulation

**APRIL**

- Weather Problems & Early Nectar Flows
- Swarm Management
- Package Installation

**MAY**

- Queens
- Requeening
- Splits

## **JUNE**

- Hive Checks and Supering
  - Nectar Flows
- Nectar Sources
- Pollen – Sources and Collecting
- Migratory Beekeeping

## **JULY**

- Honey Production
  - Harvesting
  - Extracting

## **AUGUST**

- Starting Fall & Winter Preparations
  - Feeding
  - Preliminary Preparation of Hive for Wintering

## **SEPTEMBER**

- Fall & Winter Management
  - Equipment
  - Location
  - Honey & Pollen Stores
  - Ventilation and Moisture Control

## **OCTOBER**

- Honey
  - Packaging
  - Selling
  - Judging
  - Wax and Candles
  - Other Hive Products

## **NOVEMBER**

- Honey in Cooking
- Cleaning Equipment
- Wax Moths