

Master Beekeeper Program



Presented by Ari Alvarez

Mission

- To increase the knowledge of beekeepers about honey bees,
- Develop a pool of people capable of dealing with the media and public on bees and beekeeping,
- To provide an objective system for an individual to evaluate and measure his own level of expertise, and
- To encourage membership in and support of local beekeeper associations.



Levels

Master



Journeyman



Apprentice



Apprentice

- Each level costs \$15 (\$10 for test and \$5 for patch)
- No pre-requisites
- Only basic knowledge requirement to pass the open-book test
- No hands on experience required
- Class usually taught at local bee clubs
- This may be a requirement for keeping bees in the city
- About 500-800 people/year complete this level

Journeyman

- Required to complete Apprentice level first
- The applicant must be a member of a local and/or state beekeepers association
- Minimum of three years experience (since taking Apprentice test)
- Pass a field test at the applicant's apiary
- Pass an open book test in person (passing grade of 75 percent on examinations is required)
- 30 public service points
- Must keep a journal for one year to keep track of beekeeping experiences and observations about bees and beekeeping
- About 3-5 beekeepers/year complete this level

Journeyman Field Test

- General apiary appearance
- Hive appearance – organization
- General colony management
- Hive manipulation expertise
- Colony temperament
- Colony strength, adjusted for nuc vs. parent colony and time of year
- Apiary sanitation and cleanliness
- Medication program – preventative
- Knowledge of environmental factors
- Public relations awareness

Journeyman Service Points

- A. Presentations on beekeeping and related topics to non-beekeeping groups.
- B. Programs on beekeeping and related topics to school groups.
- C. Presentation of WSBA or WA State approved programs to beekeeping groups.
- D. Publication of beekeeping and related topic articles in journals, newsletters, etc.
- E. Serving as an officer/director/trustee of a local beekeeping organization.
- F. Working at a beekeeping exhibit open to the public.
- G. Assisting 4-H or FFA members, and other youths with beekeeping projects.
- H. Serving as an officer/board member/regional representative of the WSBA.
- I. Programs/lectures/demonstrations on specific beekeeping topics to beekeeping groups.
- J. Judging honey and/or beekeeping products at fairs and other competitions.
- K. Conducting courses for advanced beekeepers.
- L. Provide one to one instruction to beginning beekeepers.
- M. Give courses to beginning beekeepers.
- N. Perform special programs, work, courses, exhibits, or other efforts approved by the WSBA MBC.

More About Points

- A maximum of 50% of accumulated units may be obtained in one category.
- 1 unit equals 1 hour, with a maximum of 3 units per presentation in categories A, B, C, I, K and M.
- 1 unit equals 2 hours with a maximum of 3 units per recipient in categories G and L.
- 5 units for an article published in a national magazine or publishing one state or local association newsletter. 2 units for an article published in a local or state newsletter as specified in category D.
- 15 units for serving as an elected officer for one year, and 5 units for serving as a trustee/-executive board member for one year as specified in categories E & H.
- 1 unit equals 2 hours in category F.
- 1 unit equals 1 hour in category J.

Master

- Six years of accumulated experience
- Journeyman level pre-requisite
- Four research papers and one presentation (1,000 points)
- Public service points (2,000 points total)
- Membership in Washington State Beekeepers Association

Points Categories

- Similar to Journeyman level but with a different point system
- #1a- 4 research papers or more for a total of 800 points
- #1b- One or more oral presentations for 200 points (from 12 different subjects)
- 26 more categories, covering many different options, from being an officer, to working in a commercial operation (a little heavy on the commercial side)
- Category #27 flexible to any beekeeping related project

How Many Master Beekeepers?

| Present Master Beekeepers | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| George Lamm | 1986 |
| Amber Wright | 1986 |
| Jo Miller | 1986 |
| Jim Miller | 2001 |
| Louis Matej | 2010 |
| John Timmons | 2011 Honorary |
| Jim Bach | 2011 Honorary |
| Eric Olson | 2012 Honorary |
| Paul Hosticka | 2013 Honorary |
| Morris Ostrofsky (Oregon) | 2013 |
| Franclyn Heinecke (PCBA) | 2014 |

Resuming

Apprentice

- Basic knowledge
- No experience
- Read the booklet

Journeyman

- Moderate knowledge
- Some experience
- Find answers on your own

Master

- Advanced knowledge
- Very experienced
- Write the book

Information and Questions

- WASBA Master Beekeepers Program
 - <http://wasba.org/master-beekeepers-program/>
- This presentation can be downloaded from
 - <http://beemaniacs.com/learn> (click on Download Presentations)
- Email:
 - ari@beemaniacs.com