

PRESS RELEASE

THE ART OF BEEKEEPING

Friday & Saturday, February 3rd & 4th, 2012 in Nary, MN.

&

ADVANCED BEEKEEPING

Saturday, April 28, 2012 in Park Rapids, MN.

PARK RAPIDS & NARY, MN (01/04/12) – Would you like to create a sustainable future in bees by raising bees in your backyard? Do you need a refresher course to learn more about beekeeping? Honeybees are a gardener's best friend; they pollinate fruit trees, vegetables and other garden plants plus provide a valuable product. . . HONEY!

The Art of Beekeeping is held on Friday, February 3, 2012 (5:30pm to 9:00pm) and Saturday, February 4, 2012 (8:30am to 4:00pm) at the Town Hall in Nary, MN; County Road 9.

Advanced Beekeeping is held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 (8:30am to 4:00pm) at Faith Baptist Church, State Highway 71 South, Park Rapids, MN.

Taught by JoAnne Sabin, a well known educator on honeybees and a Dakota County Master Gardener, the course is designed to encourage, assist and educate others in the wonderful experience of keeping honeybees. The Art of Beekeeping will cover fundamental bee basics, apiary equipment & hive assembly, selecting a site, feeding and treating bees, queen, worker & drones behavior, nectar and pollen plants, honey extracting and seasonal management.

The Advanced Beekeeping will cover current events, pesticides (CCD research, pesticide activity, ...), more detailed bee biology, experience with various bee races, equipment beyond the basics, importance of feeding (stimulate brood-rearing in spring, keep them healthy), honey characteristics for some plant nectars...(some crystallize faster than others), other bee-related products and how to make them (e.g. Creamed honey, candles, lip balm), and how to make splits, either by locating the queens or without locating queens, queen grafting, winterizing, expanding your hives and diseases.

Call Sally Shearer, Hubbard County Extension Program Coordinator at 218/732-3391 (office) or 218/237-1245 (direct) or email sshearer@umn.edu to register. Registration is **FREE**. Participants are asked to provide their own lunch.

The program is sponsored by the Hubbard County University of Minnesota Extension and Hubbard County Master Gardeners.