

# SUSTAINABLE / BIODYNAMIC BEEKEEPING TRAINING

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*Objectives* of this training are to deepen the understanding of the honeybees and the laws of nature, which are the laws of life, in order to arrive at appropriate beekeeping practices able to strengthen the honeybee's compromised immune system and restore health to the extent that external factors of our environment and culture permit.

The training will go beyond traditional/organic/natural beekeeping methods, and will explore beekeeping methods that will bring us and the Honeybees into the future. A new way of relating to the animal kingdom is dictated by the needs of our times.

The overarching goal of healing will lead us into a deeper understanding of the most holistic way of enlivening the landscape and forage for the pollinators: biodynamic agriculture.

Each session will include practical experience with our bees as well as artistic activities, in order to train our sense of observation, a necessary tool for rising above 'recipes'.

After completion of the four sessions, including their requirements, the training will finish with a *certificate for biodynamic/sustainable beekeeping*.

**As these sessions are conceived as an organic whole, they can only be taken in proper sequence.**

*Contents:* Topics will include, but are not limited to:

## 1) BEEKEEPING

- \* The colony as a super organism
- \* Hive management through the year
- \* Necessity for swarming and natural queens
- \* The mystery of honey and wax
- \* The honeybee as integral part of our evolution
- \* Working with the "Great BEE"
- \* Honeybee diseases, challenges, natural treatments
- \* Ways to strengthening the immune system
- \* Caring for all pollinators by creating habitat and forage
- \* Mites, hive beetles, parasitic flies: symptoms and possible solutions
- \* Exploration of different hive forms

## 2) BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

- \* Making some of the preparations, stirring and application
- \* Understanding the healing and harmonizing effects of these preps
- \* Exploring how this can affect the Bee colony

## 3) ANTHROPOSOPHICAL OVERARCHING TOPICS

- \* World evolutionary rhythms and cycles
- \* Sacred Geometry and innate significance of the numbers 3,4,6,7
- \* Exploration into the 4 elements and 4 ethers
- \* Threefold & Fourfold Human being

### *Requirements:*

- \* The participant will be required to have worked with bees and will be working with bees between the sessions.
- \* For those fairly new to beekeeping, familiarity with a basic beekeeping manual (e.g. Richard Bonney "*Hive Management*", or "*Beekeeping for Dummies*") is expected.
- \* Rudolf Steiner's lectures "Bees" should be read before the 1st. session.
- \* In the course of the training, other reading will be assigned.
- \* Homework will be assigned between the sessions.

*Dates:*     **2012:** June 21-23   &   August 30-Sept. 1

**2013:** June 20-22   &   August 29-31

*Tuition:* \$1,280 for 4 sessions, 3 days each.

Couples: \$ 1,120

This price includes lunch, snacks and teaching materials.

Supper, breakfast as well as lodging is not included.

### *Registration:*

The fee of \$640 for the 2012 sessions has to be paid by April 30 to secure a place. The remaining \$640 has to be paid by February 28, 2013.

To sign up for this training or for more information, please email us at  
*info@spikenardfarm.org*

### *Lodging:*

Floyd offers a variety of good lodging (*Floyd Hotel*, very special!), Bed & Breakfast and Inns, as well as an excellent natural food store "Harvest Moon" and a variety of excellent restaurants. The summer is busy here, so book in time. <visitfloyd.com>

We also offer camping possibilities : please email inquiries to  
*info@spikenardfarm.org*

A detailed schedule will be available beginning of June.

**A minimum of 15 participants is required to offer this training, and a maximum of 25 will be accepted.**