

Honey Bee Queen Rearing Workshop

Hosted by SCBA

Program Overview

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn the full cycle of queen rearing—from understanding queen biology to successfully introducing a new queen into a nucleus colony. By the end of the program, each student will have the opportunity to raise and take home their own queen-right NUCs.

Session 1: Foundations (Virtual)

 Zoom Presentation

 May 14 |  7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

What You'll Learn:

-  Queen biology and lifecycle
-  Tools and equipment (*provided by SCBA*)
-  Preparing a Starter/Finisher colony
-  Identifying and selecting the **youngest larvae (6–12 hours old)**
-  Understanding the grafting calendar and timing

Goal:

Build the knowledge needed to confidently perform grafting in the field.

Session 2: Hands-On Grafting Day

 May 23

 Richfield Community Garden

 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

 Copley (Location TBD)

 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

What You'll Do:

- Prepare Starter/Finisher colonies
- Perform **hands-on grafting** (*all students participate*)
- Place grafted larvae into cell bars
- Install frames into Starter/Finisher colonies
- Provide proper nutrition (*syrup & pollen patties*)

Goal:

Successfully graft larvae and initiate queen cell development.

Session 3: Acceptance Check (Optional but Recommended)

 May 24

What to Expect:

- Quick inspection of grafted frames
- Confirm nurse bees are tending to queen cells
- Identify **accepted vs. rejected grafts**

Goal:

Evaluate grafting success and reinforce learning.

Session 4: NUC Preparation & Cell Introduction

 June 2 |  5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

-  Richfield (Robert/Kathy)
-  Copley (Randy/Rosanne)

What You'll Do:

- Set up and label **queen less NUCs**
- Inspect student-provided NUCs (*must be queenless*)
- Introducing capped queen cells into each colony

Goal:

Successfully establish conditions for a new queen to emerge and mate.

Session 5: Queen Check & NUC Pickup

 June 13 |  9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

-  Richfield (Robert/Kathy)
-  Copley (Randy/Rosanne)

What You'll Do:

- Inspect colonies for **queen-right status**
- Confirm successful queen emergence and laying
- Pick up your completed NUC

Goal:

Take home a thriving colony with your newly raised queen

What to Bring

- Protective gear (veil, gloves, etc.)
 - Your own NUC with 2-4 frames of brood and food (for June 2 session)
 - Notebook or phone for notes/photos
 - Enthusiasm and willingness to learn!
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What You'll Gain

- Confidence in queen rearing techniques
 - Hands-on grafting experience
 - A deeper understanding of colony dynamics
 - Your own **locally raised queen**
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The calendar of success

Date	Day	Stage	Explanation
05/14/2026	ZOOM	Virtual Meeting	Learning the science
05/20/2026	1	Egg is laid	Queen lays eggs
05/23/2026	4	Grafting Day	Select 6-hour old larva
05/24/2026	5	Inspect Graft	
06/02/2026	13	Transfer Capped Cells	Inspect nucs and install cells
06/05/2026	16	Cells emerge	Virgin queens
06/07/2026- 06/08/2026	18-19	Mating flights	Have fun queens
06/13/2026	24	Check NUCs	Mated Queens are laying