

## Keeping Outside the Box: A Comprehensive Understanding of Sustainable Beekeeping in Today's Declining Environment



Photo Credit: Steller Apiaries

Jessica & Keith Steller became interested in beekeeping through gardening and mead-making. Knowing their yields could be greater from the benefits of the bee's pollination, more dedication into the husbandry and natural life cycle of the bee evolved. In this session they will present what they have learned over 15 years of alternative beekeeping methods. The day will start with a look into top bar hives, sustainable and biodynamic practices, and the natural life cycle of the bee followed by a look at the steps of procuring a hive and bees. Alternative apiary management practices will be the focus of the next section covering living outside of medications, building colony numbers, tending with intention, winterizing, and off-season planning. This full day will end with an informative talk on apitherapy and alternatives to beekeeping for honey production. Each section will allow time for Q&A and a roundtable discussion.

Time	Topics
9:00	Welcome & Introductions
9:05	Why Alternative Hives? - A look at top bar hives, sustainable and biodynamic practices, and the natural life cycle of the bee
10:30	Break
10:45	Procuring a Hive and Bees – A look into the seasonal cycle, building a hive, and procuring a swarm
12:30	Lunch

Time	Topics
1:45	Alternative Apiary Management – Living outside of medications, building colony numbers, tending with intention, winterizing and off-season planning
3:00	Break
3:15	Apitherapy – Understanding the healing properties of honeybees, Bee venom therapy (BVT) and alternatives to beekeeping for honey production
4:45	Wrap-up and Evaluation
5:00	Adjourn to Reception in Head House

The MOFFA Organic Intensives is a day long workshop including an organic lunch, breaks, a few booths to browse (including the MOFFA book table), and time to meet with old friends and make new ones. Find more information about the Organic Intensives, scholarships, and how to register at <http://moffa.net/oi-2023.html>.