

Proposal for CCGA 8th Annual Spring Conference

Title: Keeping bees at your community garden

Speaker: Matthias Lampe, Head-Beekeeper at El Paseo Community Garden, matthias@lampe.net, mobile 708-315-3868

Format: Life Lecture (45min) with Q&A Session (15min)

Abstract:

We have been keeping bees at the El Paseo Community Garden for 3 years. We started as two garden members (Noah Frazier and myself) with 2 bee hives and extended last year to 4 hives. We are now organized as a group of 6 volunteers from the Pilsen community of all ages and gender keeping care of the bees. Our bee hive inspections are open to everyone interested to learn more about bees.

Keeping honey bees at your community garden has many benefits:

- The bees help pollinating crops at the garden
- The honey of the bees provides an additional income source for the garden
- The bee hives provide an educational opportunity for kids, youth and adults of the garden and the community
- Keeping the bees can be organized as a group of garden volunteers strengthening the garden community and is an empowering experience for the beekeepers

In this presentation, I would like to inspire the audience to keep bees at their community garden or private garden and share our lessons learned over the last 3 years:

- How to start beekeeping (equipment, buying bees, location, tools, costs, etc.)
- What to know to be a beekeeper (incl. resources to learn beekeeping)
- How to harvest and sell honey (equipment, tools, costs, expected income)
- How to organize, involve and educate volunteers as beekeepers
- Where to find help (e.g. organizations and potential mentors for beekeeping)

After the presentation there will be time to answer questions of the audience and the knowledge and resources shared help the audience to better decide if keeping bees could be a new project for their community garden in 2021. I would personally be available to help anyone with the decision process and the setup after the presentation.

Live Presentation

Workshop Lecture

Demonstration Other (please describe)

Pre-recorded Presentation

Workshop Lecture

Demonstration Other (please describe)

Schedule

X_ 10:00 - 11:00am X_ 11:30am - 12:30pm X_ 2:00 – 3:00pm

(I am available to present in either one of the three time slots)