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Save isle bees and they'll save us

Monday, June 13 8:02 pm

Save the bees by training more beekeepers?

That's the new mission of Richard Spiegel of Volcano Island Honey Co. and Jenny Bach of Bee Love Apiaries, who have teamed up to offer a class in Beginning Organic Beekeeping.

"The class is for commercial and backyard farmers and anyone wanting to learn more about beekeeping.," said the duo.

The class runs for four consecutive Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. beginning July 9. Class content will include a history of honeybees, instruction about hives, tools, managing colonies and producing honey, capturing swarms, construction of different types of hives, bee problems and holistic, biodynamic and organic beekeeping.

"Hawaii's declining bee population is not just a beekeeper's problem, it is an agricultural problem. Without an adequate bee population and cadre of skilled beekeepers, agriculture in Hawaii will begin to see a decline in production as wild bee populations crash," said project spokeswoman Andrea Dean.

"In Hawaii, wild bees currently pollinate coffee, macadamia nuts, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, citrus, avocado and guava. Training agriculturalists and backyard farmers to learn how to keep and manage hives supports agricultural production," said Dean.

For additional information and registration forms, visit www.volcanoislandhoney.com/blog/beginning-beekeeping, or call Dean at 960-3727.

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