

# Natural Beekeeping in Horizontal Hives

2-day seminar with Dr. Leo Sharashkin

September 20-21, 2025 • Cabool, MO

Venue: "Opus" 208 Hwy 181, Cabool, Missouri 65689

\$695 for one • \$545 each, two or more

Register at: [HorizontalHive.com](http://HorizontalHive.com)



Keeping bees can be simple, healthful, and rewarding. Dr. Leo shares time-honored methods that make beekeeping fun and accessible to all. The visually rich presentations & apiary visit include tons of practical advice, step-by-step instructions, hive demonstrations, and exclusive equipment discounts for attendees!

If you are just starting out, you'll receive a robust working understanding of all aspects and options of the natural approach. Experienced beekeepers will glean a swath of ideas to apply in your apiaries: keep bees treatment-free with minimal intervention and expense. Get all your questions answered and succeed!

*"Dr Leo taught a class that was totally dynamite! Amazingly awesome trouble free way to keep bees that manages them so in tune with nature."*

— unsolicited comment on Facebook

## IN-DEPTH 2-DAY SEMINAR!

- natural beekeeping that works
- horizontal hives *live*
- visit our 1000-acre bee sanctuary
- saves you years of trial and error

*Equipment discounts!*



Dr. Leo Sharashkin is editor of *Keeping Bees With a Smile*, a comprehensive resource on keeping bees naturally in horizontal hives. He writes for *American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, *Mother Earth News*, and other major publications, and speaks internationally on sustainable beekeeping. He holds a PhD in Forestry from the University of Missouri and a Master's in Natural Resources from Indiana University. Author of world-renowned research in sustainable agriculture, he lives with his wife and children at a 1000-acre bee sanctuary in the Ozarks in southern Missouri where they catch swarms and raise bees in low-maintenance, easy-to-build horizontal hives. See [HorizontalHive.com](http://HorizontalHive.com)



## Program highlights

- How bees live in nature – your keys to success.
- Keep bees naturally with minimal interference.
- Attract local bee swarms – start your apiary *for free*.
- How to build low-maintenance bee-friendly hives.
- Horizontal hive models & their advantages.
- Horizontal hive management – complete how-to.
- Keep colonies healthy & strong without any drugs.
- Overwinter bees successfully in any climate.
- Natural & artificial swarming – multiply your hives.
- Queen rearing – never buy bees again.
- Simplified beekeeping: one-box hive, no feeding, no heavy lifting, no queen excluders, no requeening.
- Produce fabulous honey for yourself and for sale.
- Reverse bee decline & restore landscapes.

## Testimonials

"I learned much more than expected and will be hard pressed to find a better presentation on natural beekeeping." – *Paul, Colorado*

"The amount of information was enormous. Like drinking from a fire hose!" – *Phil, Pennsylvania*

"This was the greatest experience I've ever had at a seminar. I feel so much more intelligent regarding bees and feel like I received a lifetime of beekeeping knowledge." – *Linn, Missouri*

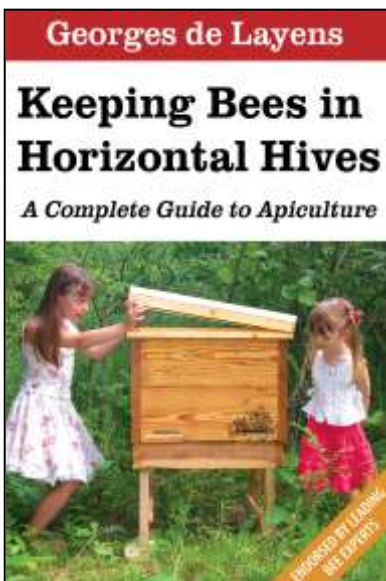


"The workshop was everything I hoped it would be. Practical, instructive, and motivating. Dr. Leo's enthusiasm for natural beekeeping is contagious. You can't help but be inspired after spending a weekend with him. Go, and you will be thankful that you did." – *Craig, Louisiana*

"Dr. Leo is extremely knowledgeable about what he is presenting. The way the workshop flowed was effortless and extremely enjoyable." – *Michelle*

"I am new to beekeeping and want to keep my bees naturally. Dr. Leo's workshop is the best investment I have made so far. I now feel confident that I can succeed."

"I feel like a born-again beekeeper." – *Paul, California*



**This seminar is filling up FAST!** • Register NOW at [HorizontalHive.com](http://HorizontalHive.com)



# Dr. Leo Sharashkin's Natural Beekeeping Workshop

## **DAY 1**

8:00 Registration opens

9:00 Welcome & Mutual introduction

### **9:15 SESSION 1: NATURAL BEEKEEPING • LOCAL BEES • CATCHING SWARMS**

- Foundations of Natural Beekeeping.
- How honeybees live in nature.
- How we can mimic bees' natural ways.
- Importance of local bees.
- Natural swarms.
- Swarm traps / Bait hives – best designs & keys to successful use.
- Catching swarms using swarm traps: how, where, when.
- Collecting swarms. Removing bees from structures.

10:45 *break*

### **11:15 SESSION 2: HIVE DESIGN • HORIZONTAL HIVE ADVANTAGES**

- What is an ideal hive?
- History and evolution of hive models.
- Hive choices depending on your climate and priorities:
  - Hot / Moderate / Cold climates
  - Honey production / Pollination / Bee welfare
  - Stationary / Migratory
  - Small scale / Medium scale / Large commercial
- Horizontal hives and their advantages
- How to build low-maintenance hives that respect bees' needs.
- Choice of materials. Insulation. Ventilation.
- Design options, sizes, and layouts.
- Frames: foundation vs. foundationless; top-bar vs. frames.
- Frame designs and construction.

1:00 *lunch break*

### **2:30 SESSIONS 3 & 4: APIARY VISIT • WOODWORKING**

- *Apiary visit – see horizontal hives in action, inside & out!*
- Hive building principles and techniques. Tools and equipment.
- Frame assembly, wiring, and waxing.

5:00 *adjourn*

## **DAY 2**

9:00 Introduction

### **9:15 SESSION 5: BEE HEALTH & TREATMENT-FREE BEEKEEPING**

- Treatment-free beekeeping – keys to success; short-term vs. long-term.
  - Hive spacing. Lower density = healthier bees.
  - Hive volume. Smaller hives = healthier bees.
  - Swarming; natural or artificial. Brood-cycle breaks = healthier bees.
  - Consequences of treatments.

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- Bee biology & ecology, and how it affects beekeeping choices:
  - Honeybee races. Local bees. “Improving” bee genetics.
  - Colony structure: queen, workers, drones.
  - Comb building & Nest architecture.
  - Communication & Collective intelligence.
  - Foraging and other tasks. Local honeyflows.
  - Propagation and swarming. Colony development cycles.
- Diseases. Pests. Varroa mites. Small hive beetles.
- Mice, possums, and bears.

## **10:00 SESSION 6: COLONY MANAGEMENT - SPRING & SUMMER**

- Spring inspection – when, what to look for, what to (not) do.
- Spring buildup – nest expansion vs. bee health.
- Swarming. Collecting and hiving swarms. Artificial increase options.
- Main honeyflow.
- Late swarms. Uniting swarms. Adding swarms to existing hives.

*10:45 break*

## **11:15 SESSION 7: QUEEN REARING • MANAGEMENT - FALL, WINTER**

- Queens. Queen rearing overview.
- Fall honey harvest. Extraction, extractor models. Packing and storage.
- Winter preparation and wintering.

*12:30 lunch*

## **2:00 SESSION 8: HONEY AND HIVE PRODUCTS • MARKETING**

- Making a living doing Natural Beekeeping – yes, that’s totally feasible.
- Backyard and commercial Natural Beekeeping.
- Marketing: how to sell honey for premium prices
- Honey. Comb honey. Cappings.
- Dark comb honey. Bee bread. Bee pollen.
- Wax – harvesting & processing. Wax uses. Making your own foundation.
- Propolis. Bee venom. Royal jelly. Brood. Die-off. Apitherapy.
- Selling bees, queens, hives, nectar plants. Apiary visits & honey tours.
- Entrepreneurship: flourishing families, communities, and landscapes.

*3:30 break*

## **4:00 SESSION 9: NECTAR AND POLLEN PLANTS**

- Bee forage needs: how much, what, and when.
- Monoculture vs. biodiversity: what it means for bees and honey quality.
- Native and non-native plants.
- Nectar plants: annuals, biennials, perennials, shrubs, trees.
- Planting nectar and pollen trees & shrubs.
- Planting annual and perennial flowers.
- Migratory beekeeping.

## **4:45 SESSION 10: HONEY FOR LIFE: BEE WORLD, HUMAN WORLD**

- What can we learn from the bees? Some insights to inspire your daily life.
- Visions of the future of bees and humanity.
- Can we build a cooperative society & restore the Earth?
- Questions and Answers. Thanks & farewells. Course evaluation.

*5:00 adjourn*

**Register at: [HorizontalHive.com](http://HorizontalHive.com)**

## VENUE ADDRESS

Venue address: “**Opus**” / “**The Stars Foundation**” 208 Hwy 181, Cabool, MO 65689

Easy to find: 2000 ft south of the intersection of highways 60 and 181, on the east side of 181.

## GPS COORDINATES FOR VENUE

37.1094, -92.1038

## ACCOMMODATION

**Comfort Inn Willow Springs** is 12 miles away; nice, clean, and comes highly recommended.

*Address:* 1204 E Main St, Willow Springs, MO 65793.

*Phone:* (417) 469-0410.

**Highland Inn & Suites** in Cabool is a short walk from the venue but is not as highly rated as Comfort Inn in Willow Springs.

*Address:* 104 Highway 181 South, Cabool, MO 65689

*Phone:* (417) 962-5888

Other accommodation options in the area include:

- **Mountain Grove, MO** (10 miles away) – Comfort Inn
- **West Plains, MO** (33 miles away) – *many* chain hotels
- **Camper or RV:** the closest camping and cabins is North Fork River Ranch (hwy 181 S, then right on AA), 20 miles away. Tel.: (417) 293-3364. Web: [nfranch.info](http://nfranch.info)
- **AirBnB** offers a number of options in the area

## AIRPORTS – GETTING TO CABOOL, MO

Cabool, MO, is located on *Highways 60 and 63* in Texas County, South-Central Missouri.

The nearest airports are:

- **Springfield, Missouri (SGF)** – 85 miles
- **St. Louis, Missouri (STL)** – 175 miles

## WEATHER

- **March** weather is usually quite warm and sunny during the day, with colder nights. The average temperatures are 60° F (15° C) during the day and 34° F (1° C) at night.
- **April** is gradually getting warmer; by early **May** it's usually summer-like.
- **June to August** can be very hot and dry.
- **September** is great – warm and sunny.
- **October** weather is usually quite warm and sunny during the day, with colder nights. The average temperatures are 67° F (19° C) during the day and 42° F (6° C) at night. But we can also get night frosts, or it can get cold and rainy.

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## FOOD AND DINING

We'll provide tea, coffee, water, and healthy organic snacks during breaks. The main meals are not included and you can eat at the nearby restaurants or bring food with you. Cabool is a small town and dining options are limited. If you are on a special diet, only eat organic food, or have food allergies, consider bringing your own food.

- **El Imperial**, a basic Mexican restaurant, 523 Main St, Cabool, MO 65689.
- **Subway**, 531 Main St, Cabool, MO 65689.

## BRING YOUR BEE VEIL

If you have a bee veil or jacket, bring it with you as we'll be looking inside hives and, depending on the season, harvesting honey. If you have no veil, no problem, we have a dozen spare ones, so we'll literally have you covered! Usually bees are so docile protection is not even necessary.

## HORIZONTAL HIVES & BEE EQUIPMENT SALES

We offer SPECIAL DEALS for workshop attendees! If you are driving, avoid shipping costs by picking up your Layens horizontal hives, swarm traps, frames, extractors, etc. at the workshop. You'll be able to place and pick up your order right here. Shipping is available, too.

## VIDEO / AUDIO RECORDING POLICY

No video or audio recording is allowed. Thank you for your cooperation!

## WHILE YOU ARE IN THE AREA...

The surrounding area offers spectacular canoeing/kayaking, hiking, fishing, and mountain biking.

- **Canoeing / kayaking** – great day trips from Twin Bridges, 30 min south of Cabool. *Website:* [twinbridgescanoe.com](http://twinbridgescanoe.com) • *phone:* (417) 256-7507 • Rentals includes a shuttle back to your car. The river is beginner friendly and very scenic.
- **Hiking, Biking, Fishing, Swimming.** We recommend Noblett Lake Recreation area at Mark Twain National Forest, just 20 miles south of Cabool. *Website:* [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnf/recarea/?recid=21748](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mtnf/recarea/?recid=21748)

Register at: [HorizontalHive.com](http://HorizontalHive.com)

## **TESTIMONIALS – DR LEO’S NATURAL BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS**

“EVERYTHING I HOPED FOR”

I was really looking forward to attending the Natural Beekeeping Workshop; it was everything I hoped it would be. It was practical, instructive, and motivating. Dr. Leo practices what he preaches. His enthusiasm for natural beekeeping is contagious. You can’t help but be inspired after spending a weekend with him. Go, and you will be thankful that you did.

-- *Craig, Louisiana*

"Fantastic crash course in keeping bees naturally. Fast-paced, action-packed, and to-the-point. You'll understand beekeeping -- and how it should be done."

-- *Garl, Bozeman, Montana*

"It was totally awesome!! Very comprehensive, clear and beautifully presented. I felt my soul expand with the deep knowledge and wisdom that Dr. Leo shared and imparted to me in the same way that he might expand the hive in the spring. I am deeply grateful for his work with the bees. Dr Leo's passion and love for the bees comes through so strongly. I now have confidence to go home and catch a swarm and keep bees naturally with a smile. :) Love, love, love the handouts. I was able to listen more instead of taking notes."

-- *Joanne, Hamilton, Montana*

"I wholeheartedly recommend Dr Leo's natural beekeeping workshop. He is a wealth of practical information in regards to bees, beekeeping and the importance of biodiversity. You will walk away impassioned and well prepared to keep bees in harmony with nature."

-- *Chris, Bozeman, Montana*

"Dr. Leo said so much that made sense to me that I finally gave up counting the "light bulb" moments. I am still just in awe of the information provided to us. Simple, honest, pure and sharing. I sat in amazement that we had this caliber of teacher/teachings right here in Bozeman at our own back doors! I cannot recommend this enough for anyone with an interest or desire in bees, especially if you're just considering them. I wish I had this knowledge 3 years ago when I decided to get bees. It would have saved me and the bees a lot of heartache. Dr. Leo is a warm and generous soul, sharing his wisdom and spreading the JOY of beekeeping with anyone who wants to learn."

-- *LaVonne*

“I AM A MUCH BETTER APIARIST BECAUSE OF YOU!”

Dr. Leo, Thank you very much for the most enriching and beneficial bee training I have received to date. So much good information! Your daughter Lada did a marvelous job hosting the refreshments which were over the top. Also, it was a delight to meet your wonderful family and visit your apiary and workshop which made a believer out of me. BRAVO! I am a much better Apiarist because of you!

-- *Ron, Tennessee*

"Enlightening, Enriching, Exciting. Thank you for bee-ing here! Thank you for sharing your passion, knowledge, and experiences with us! We need you, your passion, and your work -- the planet needs you! So completely satisfied and so grateful for the workshop."

-- *Dannette, Bozeman, Montana*

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"FANTASTIC! I would recommend it to anyone who has bees or is interested."

"The course was very well organized. Dr Leo covered a lot of material during the weekend but I never felt overwhelmed. His presentation was informative, easy to follow, and inspiring."

"Ah! This was a wonderful workshop. A tremendous amount of information and contagious enthusiasm. I believe everything was covered that I had concern over. Thank you so much!"

"THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IS ENORMOUS"

Dr. Leo's workshop was wonderful and so informative. The amount of information he gives you is enormous. It is a well rounded workshop, not just about horizontal hives, but about every aspect of keeping bees naturally. You are out in the wilderness in a beautiful setting.

-- Teresa, Missouri

"THE BEST INVESTMENT I HAVE MADE"

I am new to beekeeping and want to keep my bees naturally. Dr. Leo's workshop is the best investment I have made so far. I now feel confident that I can succeed. I am a 67 year old female and felt I couldn't have bees. I am so happy I found Dr. Leo and keeping bees naturally in horizontal hives!! No lifting heavy supers!! The workshop was packed with information. Many handouts so I have resources to refer back to when I start working with my bees.



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