



Monty Schrunk

Keeping Bees Doesn't have to be Hard

BASED

Missouri

FEE RANGE

Contact me, let's talk!

“Everything I Need to Know, I Learned From a Beehive”

Monty Schrunk, known as the Suburban Sodbuster, is a natural beekeeper, organic gardener, and speaker based in Affton, Missouri. By turning his suburban backyard into a space for growing food and keeping honey bees, he brings a relatable perspective to audiences interested in greater self-reliance. His mission is to help people understand that keeping bees can be approachable when guided by the bees' natural behaviors.

Monty's presentations draw on his experience with treatment-free beekeeping, Layens horizontal hives, and catching local swarms. He builds and sells hives and shares practical lessons through Suburban Sodbuster's website, YouTube, and social media. His sessions explore how colonies function and introduce natural beekeeping principles, giving event coordinators relevant programming for homesteaders, backyard growers, and beekeeping groups.

His speaking experience includes the Ozarks Homesteading Expo, Oklahoma Homestead Rendezvous, Homesteaders of Iowa Conference, and Oklahoma State Beekeepers' Association Spring Meeting. Homesteaders of Iowa organizers have praised his engaging presentations and the positive response from attendees. Monty is also the author of the children's book *Don't Fear the Bees*, extending his educational mission to young learners and their families.

Signature Talks

No. 01 **Keeping Bees Doesn't have to be Hard**

an overview of natural beekeeping as compared to conventional beekeeping practices, highlighting 5 basic principles of natural beekeeping.

No. 02 **The Fascinating Lives of Bees**

an exploration of how bees live and work together, highlighting bee facts to provide an understanding of how a colony functions.

No. 03 **Moving Past Varroa with Natural Beekeeping**

A discussion of natural beekeeping principles and how keeping bees consistent with their nature, allowing natural selection, can result in stronger, more parasite- and disease-resistant bees.

No. 04 **Keeping Bees in the Layens Horizontal Hive**

A demonstration of the Layens horizontal hive, discussion of the benefits for the bees and the beekeeper, and an overview of the hive management through the year.

No. 05 **Don't Buy Packages – Get Better Bees for Free**

A brief overview of natural beekeeping, focusing on the principle of “Keep Local Bees”. This talk discusses benefits of keeping locally acclimated bees, especially from feral sources, and gives instructions for catching

swarms.

No. 06 **You Can Keep Bees, Naturally!**

An updated presentation of the principles of natural beekeeping, including how to begin or transition to keeping bees in a more natural way.

BOOKING & PRESS

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