

Honey Bee Suite | A Better Way to Bee

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Hives in real snow

Since I ran a photo of southern hives in a dusting of snow, I just had to run this photo of northern hives in *real* snow. Beekeeper Greg Padley keeps four hives about an hour north of Montreal. The building in the background is a shed where he keeps his equipment. According to Greg, his bees are hanging in there. He writes:

We have the sides, top, and bottom covered with 2-inch styrofoam. The covers have a 3/4-inch hole in each to aid ventilation and I keep the doors at the bottoms snow free for the same reason. We have had 20 below several times so far this winter and things seem fine so far, but you never know. There are usually a couple of dead bees outside each door daily. We still have February to get through and then maybe we will start to see some more action.



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Hives in snow. Photo © Greg Padley.

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2 Comments February 1, 2014 photographs, wintering overwintering Permalink

Bear crossing

The snow wars continue

Comments



Phillip February 1, 2014 at 11:57 am • Reply

Here's some real snow from last year:

<http://goo.gl/McAeOO>

The hive was completely buried. I've had to dig out two hives this year that were buried just as deep. Yeah, we get snow in Newfoundland too.



Rusty February 1, 2014 at 12:49 pm • Reply

Ha! You should let me post this photo. I know you would win the snow wars.

Leave a comment

name*

email* (not published)

website

Bee Stories



Why I hate ants

I grew up in rural Pennsylvania in a tiny town nestled below the Allegheny Mountains. I loved the place—the woods, the farmland, the mountains. And ...

My bees have lost their sweet little minds

This morning, after a week of advising everyone else to check on their bees, I decided I'd better do the same. I figured there would ...



A beekeeper's trip to Corvallis

During the abyss of grade school, through mind-numbing months of long division, spelling, and the names of planets, I scrooched at my desk and stared ...

A tale of honey bees and barbecue sauce

Yesterday was perfect for mixing up a big batch of barbecue sauce. A friend had just given me a jar of her newest creation and ...



Cemetery honey

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One of the things I loved about growing up in small-town America was that the post office put out the mail twice a day—once in ...

I love bees, but beekeeping? Not so much.

Anyone who knows me knows I love bees. It's obvious. But I have moments when I wonder if I like beekeeping. Today, for example. I have ...

My spider queen

Remember the swarm that stayed in a tree for four days before I retrieved it seven times? Well, yesterday—eleven days after it moved into the ...



Mentoring the mentor

Part 1: Bees behind bars My first opportunity to teach beekeeping occurred at a state prison. I had volunteered at the prison for several years as ...



Bathing with bees

It was day seven without a septic pump. I've lived on the same rural property for 20 years, and things happen. Walking around with a ...

Down with bee suits!

I loathe bee suits and wish I had never seen one. Then again, sometimes I need one—or I think I do. The first one I ...



A sting in winter

The pain began slowly but rose to a searing crescendo. The heat was furious, like someone holding a flame to my thumb. I knew what ...



Don't think, just do

"I wonder if, when surrounded by a thousand bees, you have ever become acutely aware of them. This year seems to be a bad year ...

Thy neighbors' bees

I'm sure you've heard all kinds of horror stories about beekeepers and their neighbors--usually threats, warnings, or fears of some type. Well, here's one I ...



Gone, gone away

When I analyze my beekeeping time—the hours I actually spend in the apiary—I estimate fully 40% is spent looking for my hive tool. You probably ...

That busy beehive smell

What is the odor that so defines an industrious hive? It has to be a blend of beeswax, nectar, larvae, and pheromones--a mix overlaid with ...



A day in the life: why do I do this?

Why, oh, why do I keep bees? Yesterday was one of those days when I couldn't remember. First of all it was totally wet outside. ...

A bee in the bra is worth a dozen anywhere else

Seriously. I work with bees a lot. I get stung a lot. But from time to time a honey bee really freaks me out. Yesterday was ...

Revenge of the cattle dog

Last summer my husband and I were invited to a neighbor's house-warming party. That by itself is unremarkable, except that we came home with a ...



The Zen of bees

I sit perched on the hive stand, leaning back against number one. It vibrates like a refrigerator, low and steady. Scent oozes thickly from the ...





The iterative method of swarm capture

Part way up the ladder I stopped. The cardboard box I carried kept catching in the branches. The box was too big—I knew that—but I ...



Bad-ant advice and the ascension of bees

You have no idea how terrible I feel about the following turn of events. I feel remorse. I feel guilt. I feel like I should ...

Mischievous proliferous: the scoo on bee poop

Okay, Mischievous proliferous is not an official name for anything, but it's the name given to honey bees by my husband. It is loosely translated ...



How to get stung 22 times in one place

Whenever I mention that I got stung 22 times in one place, someone asks, "How did you do it?" as if it were a special ...



A bull in the beeyard

I wanted to get some serious work done this morning, so I put my dog in the spare chicken yard—Henney Eight, we call it—so he ...

Did the bees find their keeper?

Early Thursday morning I received an e-mail from Katheryn, a resident of Covina, California. She wrote to ask if I would be willing to look ...

MISSION STATEMENT

Honey Bee Suite is dedicated to honey bees, beekeeping, wild bees, other pollinators, and pollination ecology. It is designed to be informative and fun, but also to remind readers that pollinators throughout the world are endangered. Although they may seem small and insignificant, pollinators are vital to anyone who eats.

STINGS 'N THINGS



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BUMBLE BEE WITH POLLEN



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