

Contents at a Glance

<i>Foreward</i>	<i>xvii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Part I: Falling in Love with a Bug</i>	<i>7</i>
Chapter 1: To Bee or Not to Bee?	9
Chapter 2: Life Inside the Honey Bee Hive	21
<i>Part II: Starting Your Adventure</i>	<i>45</i>
Chapter 3: Alleviating Apprehensions and Making Decisions	47
Chapter 4: Basic Equipment for Beekeepers	59
Chapter 5: Obtaining and Installing Your Bees	91
<i>Part III: Time for a Peek</i>	<i>109</i>
Chapter 6: Opening Your Hive	111
Chapter 7: What to Expect when You're Inspecting.....	125
Chapter 8: Different Seasons, Different Activities	145
<i>Part IV: Common Problems and Simple Solutions</i>	<i>163</i>
Chapter 9: Anticipating and Preventing Potential Problems	165
Chapter 10: Colony Collapse Disorder	189
Chapter 11: Diseases and Remedies.....	197
Chapter 12: Honey Bee Pests	207
Chapter 13: Raising Your Own Queens	229
<i>Part V: Sweet Rewards</i>	<i>247</i>
Chapter 14: Getting Ready for the Golden Harvest.....	249
Chapter 15: Honey Harvest Day	263
<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	<i>277</i>
Chapter 16: (Almost) Ten Fun Things to Do with Bees.....	279
Chapter 17: Ten Frequently Asked Questions About Bee Behavior.....	305
Chapter 18: My Ten Favorite Honey Recipes	309

Appendix A: Helpful Resources 317
Appendix B: Beekeeper's Checklist..... 331
Glossary..... 335
Index 341

Table of Contents

Foreward xvii

Introduction 1

What I Assume about You 1
How This Book Is Organized 1
 Part I: Falling in Love with a Bug..... 2
 Part II: Starting Your Adventure..... 2
 Part III: Time for a Peek..... 2
 Part IV: Common Problems & Simple Solutions 3
 Part V: Sweet Rewards 3
 Part VI: The Part of Tens..... 4
Icons Used in This Book 4

Part 1: Falling in Love with a Bug..... 7

Chapter 1: To Bee or Not to Bee? 9

Discovering the Benefits of Beekeeping 10
 Harvesting liquid gold: Honey 11
 Bees as pollinators: Their vital role to our food supply 12
 Being part of the bigger picture: Save the bees! 13
 Getting an education: And passing it on! 13
 Improving your health: Bee therapies and stress relief..... 14
Determining Your Beekeeping Potential 15
 Environmental considerations 15
 Zoning and legal restrictions..... 16
 Costs and equipment..... 16
 Time and commitment 17
 Beekeeper personality traits 18
 Allergies 18

Chapter 2: Life Inside the Honey Bee Hive 21

Basic Body Parts 22
 Skeleton..... 22
 Head..... 22
 Thorax 24
 Abdomen..... 25
The Amazing Language of Bees 25
 Pheromones..... 25
 Shall we dance? 26



Dividing Honey Bees into Three Castes.....	27
Her majesty, the queen	27
The industrious little worker bee	30
The woeful drone	35
The Honey Bee Life Cycle	36
Egg	36
Larva.....	38
Pupa.....	39
Other Stinging Insects.....	41
Bumblebee	41
Carpenter bee.....	42
Wasp	42
Yellow jacket	43
Bald-faced hornet.....	44

Part II: Starting Your Adventure..... 45

Chapter 3: Alleviating Apprehensions and Making Decisions 47

Overcoming Sting Phobia	48
Knowing what to do if you're stung.....	49
Watching for allergic reactions	50
Building up a tolerance	51
Understanding Local Laws and Ordinances	51
Easing the Minds of Family and Neighbors	51
Location, Location, Location: Where to Keep Your Hives	53
Providing for your thirsty bees.....	55
Understanding the correlation between geographical area and honey flavors	57
Knowing When to Start Your Adventure	57

Chapter 4: Basic Equipment for Beekeepers 59

Finding Out about the Langstroth Hive	59
Knowing the Basic Woodenware Parts of the Hive.....	61
Hive stand	63
Bottom board	63
Entrance reducer	63
Deep-hive body	64
Queen excluder	64
Shallow or medium honey super	65
Frames	67
Foundation.....	69
Inner cover.....	71
Outer cover.....	73

Ordering Hive Parts..... 73
 Startup hive kits 74
 Setting up shop 74
 Adding on Feeders..... 75
 Hive-top feeder 75
 Entrance feeder 77
 Pail feeder 78
 Baggie feeder 79
 Frame feeder..... 80
 Fundamental Tools..... 81
 Smoker..... 81
 Hive tool..... 81
 Bee-Proof Clothing..... 82
 Veils 83
 Gloves..... 84
 Really Helpful Accessories 84
 Elevated hive stand 85
 Frame rest 86
 Bee brush..... 87
 Slatted rack..... 87
 Screened bottom board 88
 Other necessities 89

Chapter 5: Obtaining and Installing Your Bees 91

Determining the Kind of Bee You Want..... 91
 Deciding How to Obtain Your Initial Bee Colony 94
 Ordering package bees..... 94
 Buying a “nuc” colony 95
 Purchasing an established colony..... 97
 Capturing a wild swarm of bees..... 97
 Picking a Reputable Bee Supplier..... 97
 Deciding When to Place Your Order 99
 The Day Your Girls Arrive 100
 Bringing home your bees 101
 Recipe for sugar syrup 101
 Putting Your Bees into the Hive 102

Part III: Time for a Peek 109

Chapter 6: Opening Your Hive 111

Establishing Visiting Hours 111
 Setting an Inspection Schedule..... 112
 Preparing to Visit Your Hive 112
 Making “non-scents” a part of personal hygiene 113
 Getting dressed up and ready to go 113
 Lighting your smoker 114

Opening the Hive	117
Removing the hive-top feeder	119
Removing the inner cover.....	121
The Hive's Open! Now What?.....	122
Chapter 7: What to Expect when You're Inspecting	125
Exploring Basic Inspection Techniques	125
Removing the first frame.....	126
Working your way through the hive.....	128
Holding up frames for inspection	128
Knowing when it's time for more smoke	130
Understanding what to always look for	130
Replacing frames.....	132
Closing the hive.....	132
Your New Colony's First Eight Weeks.....	133
Checking in: A week after hiving your bees.....	133
The second and third weeks	136
Weeks four through eight	139
Chapter 8: Different Seasons, Different Activities.....	145
Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer	145
Your summer "to-do" list	146
Your summer time commitment.....	146
Falling Leaves Point to Autumn Chores.....	147
Your autumn "to-do" list.....	147
Your autumn time commitment.....	150
Clustering in a Winter Wonderland.....	151
Your winter "to-do" list.....	152
Your winter time commitment.....	152
Spring Is in the Air (Starting Your Second Season).....	153
Your spring "to-do" list	153
Your springtime commitment	155
Administering spring medication	155
Reversing hive bodies	156
The Beekeeper's Calendar.....	158
How to Use this Tool.....	159
Part IV: Common Problems and Simple Solutions	163
Chapter 9: Anticipating and Preventing Potential Problems	165
Running Away (To Join the Circus?).....	166
Swarming.....	166
Absconding.....	176
Where Did the Queen Go?	176
Letting nature take its course	177
Ordering a replacement queen	177
Introducing a new queen to the hive.....	178

Avoiding Chilled Brood.....	179
Dealing with the Dreaded Robbing Frenzies	180
Knowing the difference between normal and abnormal (robbing) behavior	180
Putting a stop to a robbing attack	181
Preventing robbing in the first place.....	181
Ridding Your Hive of the Laying Worker Phenomenon.....	182
How to know if you have laying workers	183
Getting rid of laying workers	184
Preventing Pesticide Poisoning	185
The Killer Bee Phenomenon.....	186
What are “killer bees”?	186
Bee prepared!	187
Chapter 10: Colony Collapse Disorder	189
What Is CCD?	189
The warning signs.....	190
What to Do If You Suspect CCD?	190
Why All the Fuss?	191
What’s Causing CCD?	191
The cell phone theory	191
It may be the perfect storm.....	192
Answers to FAQs.....	193
What You Can Do to Help.....	194
A Final Word.....	195
Chapter 11: Diseases and Remedies	197
Medicating or Not?	197
Knowing the Big Six Bee Diseases	198
American foulbrood (AFB)	198
European foulbrood (EFB).....	199
Nosema.....	201
Chalkbrood	201
Sacbrood.....	202
Stonebrood	202
A handy chart.....	203
Chapter 12: Honey Bee Pests	207
Parasitic Mites	207
Varroa mites	207
Go au naturel!	214
Tracheal mites.....	215
Wax Moths.....	220
Small Hive Beetle	221
Determining whether you have a small hive beetle	221
How to control the small hive beetle	222
Ants, Ants, and More Ants.....	222
Bear Alert!.....	223

Raccoons and Skunks.....	224
Keeping Out Mrs. Mouse	225
Some Birds Have a Taste for Bees.....	226
Pest Control.....	226

Chapter 13: Raising Your Own Queens. 229

Why Raising Queens Is the Bee's Knees	229
Accentuate the Positive.....	230
What Makes a Queen a Queen	232
How do they mate?	233
Creating Demand: Making a Queenless Nuc.....	233
Queen Rearing: The Miller Method	234
The Doolittle Method: Grafting.....	238
Tools and equipment	238
How it's done.....	240
Providing nuptial housing.....	242
Finding a Home for Your Queens	243
The Queen Breeder's Calendar	244
Marking and Wing-Clipping	245

***Part V: Sweet Rewards* 247**

Chapter 14: Getting Ready for the Golden Harvest. 249

Having Realistic Expectations.....	250
What Flavor Do You Want?	250
Choosing Extracted, Comb, Chunk, or Whipped Honey.....	251
Extracted honey.....	251
Comb honey.....	251
Chunk honey.....	252
Whipped honey	252
The Right Equipment for the Job	253
Honey extractors	253
Uncapping knife	254
Honey strainer.....	254
Other handy gadgets for extracting honey.....	255
Comb honey equipment.....	258
Honey containers.....	258
Planning Your Honey Harvest Setup.....	258
Branding and Selling Your Honey.....	260
Creating an attractive label	260
Finding places to market your honey.....	262
Selling your honey on the Web	262

Chapter 15: Honey Harvest Day 263

Knowing When to Harvest.....	264
Bad things come to those who wait!	265

Getting the Bees Out of the Honey Supers 265
 Shakin’ ’em out 266
 Blowin’ ’em out..... 267
 Using a bee escape board 267
 Fume board and bee repellent 268
 Honey Extraction 101 270
 Cleaning Up After Extracting 273
 Controlling wax moths 274
 Harvesting wax..... 275

Part VI: The Part of Tens..... 277

Chapter 16: (Almost) Ten Fun Things to Do with Bees 279

Making Two Hives From One 279
 Making One Hive From Two 281
 Establishing a Nucleus Hive 283
 Starting an Observation Hive 284
 Planting Flowers for Your Bees 286
 Building Your Own Hives..... 289
 Brewing Mead: The Nectar of the Gods 292
 Create Cool Stuff with Propolis..... 294
 Propolis tincture 295
 Propolis ointment 296
 Propolis varnish..... 296
 Making Gifts From Beeswax 297
 Beeswax candles 298
 Beeswax furniture polish 299
 Beauty and the bees 299

**Chapter 17: Ten Frequently Asked Questions
 About Bee Behavior. 305**

Chapter 18: My Ten Favorite Honey Recipes. 309

Appendix A: Helpful Resources..... 317

Honey Bee Web Sites..... 317
 Bee-commerce.com 317
 About.com (beekeeping homepage) 318
 Apiservices — Virtual beekeeping gallery..... 318
 BeeHoo — The beekeeping directory 318
 Bee-Source.com..... 318
 Bee Master Forum..... 319
 Betterbee..... 319
 Mid Atlantic Apiculture Research and
 Extension Consortium (MAARAC) 319

Mite control using essential oils	320
National Honey Board	320
Bee Organizations and Conferences	320
American Apitherapy Society.....	320
American Beekeeping Federation.....	321
American Honey Producers Association	321
Apimondia: International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations	322
Bee Research Laboratory	322
Eastern Apiculture Society	323
International Bee Research Association	323
The Western Apiculture Society	324
Apiary Inspectors of America.....	324
Bee Journals & Magazines	324
American Bee Journal	324
Bee Culture	325
Bee World	325
The Speedy Bee.....	326
Beekeeping Supplies & Equipment.....	326
Bee-commerce.com	326
The Beez Neez Apiary Supply	327
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm	327
Dadant & Sons, Inc.....	328
Glorybee Foods, Inc.....	328
Mann Lake Ltd.....	328
Rossman Apiaries	329
Swienty Beekeeping Equipment.....	329
Thorne Beekeeping Supply.....	330
The Walter T. Kelley Company	330
State Bee Inspectors (United States)	330
 <i>Appendix B: Beekeeper's Checklist.....</i>	<i>331</i>
 <i>Glossary</i>	<i>335</i>
 <i>Index.....</i>	<i>341</i>