

# Save the bees from extinction! You CAN do it.

by [gaiatechnician](#) on August 3, 2010

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Author: [gaiatechnician](#) [author's website](#)

I am a stone mason. My hobby is making new solar cooking and gardening stuff. I have used solar heat to cook soil for a couple of years. In mother earth news in January, i read that their compost expert does the same with diseased plants and compost made from them! It kills the pathogens. In 2009, I hope to make a working low tech heliostat and design some groovey new reflectors for solar cooking.  
Brian

### Intro: Save the bees from extinction! You CAN do it.

In North America 4 **THOUSAND** types of bees are disappearing!  
Some are extinct already.

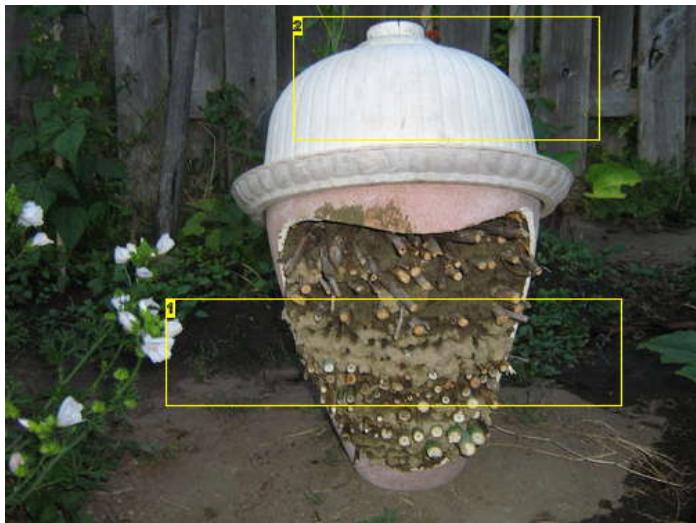
This is a **NEW** method to make bee habitat.

Colony collapse disorder is hard to blame when most bees are solitary!

Thats right, most types of bees live alone.

One big reason that they are disappearing is habitat loss.

This instructable suggests ways to provide solitary bees with brood space and overnight shelter in an attempt to replace some of that lost habitat. So far it is working much better than I expected.



#### Image Notes

1. This is my latest bee block. It was completed August 6th and still needs to dry out. The top portion has old raspberry canes. Some has already been used by bees but I find they only go 3 or 4 inches (up to 10 cm) deep. I included these pieces and cut the bottoms off and included them too. Hopefully next spring or later this year, the bees will start using these ones too.
2. This is a temporary "hat" until I think of something better.



#### Image Notes

1. This is the vase full of cob, metal bars, weed stems, dill stems, raspberry canes and grape vines. The metal bars will come out on August 5th and then the bees can start inspecting it.



#### Image Notes

1. This is a half finished cob bee shelter



### Step 1: Cob and rods and stems and things

I have worked on since spring is to make blocks of cob (sand clay water and straw mixed to a gooey constituency and let dry. What I did was to get various different sizes of metal rod and push them into a block of wet cob and then let it dry for a couple of days. Before it is completely dry, I take out the rods and this left holes for the bees.

I show a couple of the blocks here.

It worked and there are at least 4 types of bees living in the block.

I recently discovered that solitary bees burrow inside old raspberry canes!

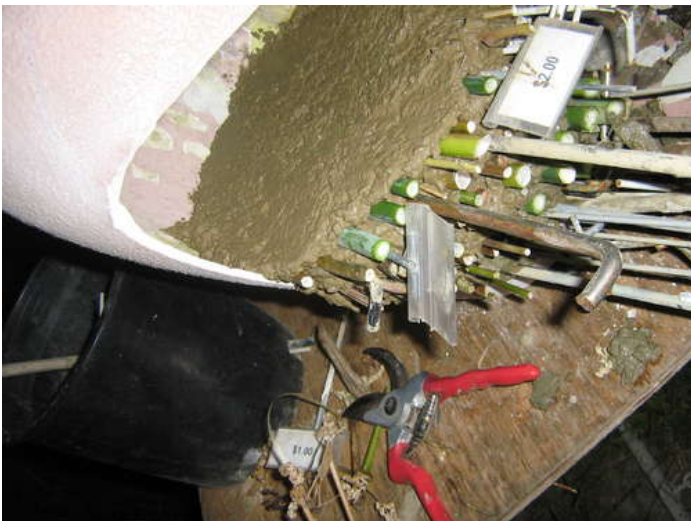
So one really easy thing you can do to help the bees is to bundle up old raspberry canes and leave the bundle in a dry south facing location. I am sure the bees will find them, burrow into some and leave some bee babies to hatch out next spring.





## Step 2: Cob and bars and stems

I layer the bars and stems in the cob and try to pack as many sizes and types of stems as possible. So I use dill, weed stems, cicily stems, grape vines, and brassica stems that have gone to seed. Anything hollow or with a pithy middle.

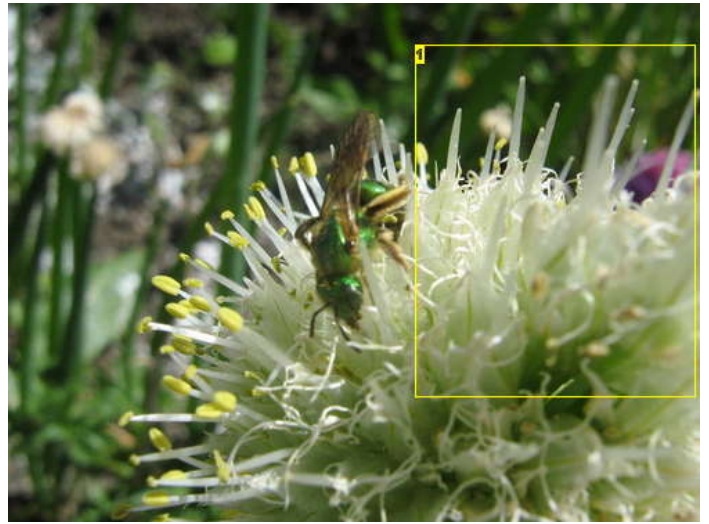




### Step 3: Shelter, brood and success!

I attach some pictures of different types of bees that enter the holes in the cob and that enter the stems. I made one ugly cob and stem block last week and the bees are starting to use it now. There are about 5 types of bees using the cob blocks. The wasp mimic uses it for shelter at night, a bee about the size of the orchard masons uses it for brood. A green bee seems to use it for brood. A tiny black bee uses some small and medium holes and a large brown bee uses it too. Today, 3rd august, tiny bees were swarming a little near the cob and stem block and a large bee used one of the front holes.





**Image Notes**

1. A green bee very like this one lives in raspberry canes and there is also one in the first cob bee shelter.



**Image Notes**

1. It is really hard to catch the bees going down the holes! They are very cagey. They wait a minute or 2 and then race to one of the holes and dive in. Here is one resting.

**Step 4: Links Other people make bee habitat too!**

<http://resonatingbodies.wordpress.com/> seems to be artists and scientists coming together to make beautiful bee habitat.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1407357@N20/> is pictures of home made bee and wasp houses.

Don't be afraid of solitary wasps, they rarely sting, "she who runs away, can lay an egg tomorrow" and all that. Its the sterile frustrated social wasps and bees that cannot lay eggs that do most of the stinging.

You can just bundle teasel stems, or raspberry canes or any hollow stem or reed and produce bee habitat. [http://www.permies.com/permaculture-forums/520\\_0/critter-care/orachard-mason-bees](http://www.permies.com/permaculture-forums/520_0/critter-care/orachard-mason-bees) Dave from Camas, Washington has been bundling teasel stems for several years and some of his pics are at the link above. And they work! <http://www.cirrusimage.com/hymenoptera.htm> Bees wasps and ants of north America

It should be noted that wasps, even Yellow Jackets perform pollination. I have seen them work hard on dill. Those yellow jackets also spend a lot of time eating aphids and caterpillars on trees. So in the ecosystem, they are an important part of the puzzle.

Here is a nice link to the solitary bees of the UK [http://www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk/solitary\\_bees.htm](http://www.moraybeekeepers.co.uk/solitary_bees.htm)

A guy in Toronto has just identified 19 NEW species of bee. Which means 19 more species of bees to save! (I think the thing in their picture is a hoverfly, it is hard to see but bees have 4 wings and a long tongue). The link is here <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2010/09/new-bee-species-discovered-during-downtown-toronto-commute.php>

## Related Instructables



**Make a cob Bee Block for solitary bees** (video) by gaiatechnician



**Bird House for Permaculture Design** by Permacult



**Giant Venomous Extinct Arachnid-Found surviving in Australia** (Photos) by Lftndbt



**Bee Hive in a Bucket** by Thinkenstein



**\$100 cabin made of Black Locust and old billboard** (video) by lazlow69



**Simple Wood and Bamboo Bike Trailer** by evank

## Comments

50 comments

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**Chrysn** says:

Nice! It would be cool to set up a bee-cam nearby to see them hanging out there.

Aug 4, 2010. 4:44 PM [REPLY](#)



**gaiatechnician** says:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCAPJbBrJaw>

Not a bee cam, just a few minutes with a mini dv camcorder but as you can see, they are using the vase! The really neat thing to me is that the bees are doing unexpected things. I did not know that they would go into the dill stems. (But I put them in anyway) I certainly did not expect that some bees would PREFER to tear out the pith from dill even though many of the easy to occupy holes are just sitting there waiting to be used. A year ago, I did not even know that these little black flies were bees! And 6 months ago, I thought wool carder bees were wasps. Useful experiment and it has expanded my knowledge. Hopefully it will do the same for others. Brian

Aug 25, 2010. 12:34 PM [REPLY](#)



**spook66** says:

Lol, cagey bees

Jun 1, 2011. 9:45 PM [REPLY](#)



**rn04072** says:

Thank you so much for this great instructable! We are all concerned about the bees and this is something anyone can do. I can't wait for summer to try it in my yard.

Mar 30, 2011. 3:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**John Harding** says:

My name is John Harding and I have found the answer and solution to stop honeybees dying.

Mar 12, 2011. 5:26 AM [REPLY](#)

It is nothing to do with any man-made product.

Honeybees were dying before any pesticides, mobile phones, G M crops or whatever you care to mention was manufactured.

Below, in two parts are the reasons why.

First part is an extract from my book.

The second is from a proof copy leaflet that was presented by myself to all delegates of the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) Conference held in the UK on the 29th January 2011.

Please enjoy reading and realise honeybees have been dying for centuries.

Kind regards

John

First part;

I am sure you are aware of the plight of the Honeybee worldwide. Beekeepers need an answer. Initially Apiarist worldwide was putting the blame for the Honeybee demise on the doorstep of the Chemical and Mobile Phone Industries.

Honeybees are dying out at an alarming rate with no one knowing why. Pesticides, CCD, GM crops, Climate change, Mobiles, Global warming or perhaps someone or something to blame would be acceptable to everyone.

There are many possibilities being put forward but as yet, no answers. The parasitic mite called Varroa is not helping matters with its contribution.

However there are two common denominators why Honeybees are dying worldwide. A short explanation first.

Chemical companies are investing millions worldwide in Universities, Scientists, Professors, Doctors, Institutes, Beekeeping Organisations and whoever, so they just might find a chemical or bacterial answer for the parasitic mite called Varroa that is sweeping the continents devastating Honeybees. Mobile Phone Companies are in denial not wanting the blame.

Chemical companies need an answer whether it is one or the other so they may recoup their investment and profit from beekeepers worldwide in selling their product.

Was Albert Einstein right in his alleged statement? "If Honeybees die out then mankind will follow 4 years later" the chances are that it won't be 4 years due to other foods such as rice being available but it will happen eventually as honeybees do pollinate 35% of what we eat.

Once Honeybees are gone, Honeybees are gone for good!

I am a beekeeper of 30 years` experience, keeping up to 300 beehives, until 6 years ago. I have invented beekeeping equipment in that time that I am proud to say, does bare my name, "The Harding Queen Rearing System using Two Queens" and "The Harding Mini Nucleus Complete System" (as seen on the internet website for BIBBA). These are an inclusion of this book, Chapter Three & Five.

During my life's work things happen and you wonder at nature, how perfect is the Honeybee micro-world, why would you want to change it and yet mankind unknowingly has changed the Honeybees perfect 200 million year existence to what mankind wants.

My beekeeping puzzle is based on observation and logic over the past 30 years with each piece complimenting the next, eventually creating a picture and discovering;

"The answer and solution to the Holy Grail of beekeeping".

I have always thought there was a natural way to treat the parasitic mite Varroa. After 18 years without treatment of any chemicals or sugar in my hives I have found the answer and it is a "World Exclusive!"

It didn't start with the Varroa mite 20 years ago, what the Varroa mite did was escalate the problem to what beekeepers had done worldwide, but it did bring it to the attention of the media and mainstream public in the last few years causing an over re-action due to Albert Einstein's alleged quote.

Honeybees started dying out when man found honey, tens of thousands of years ago when man wanted to domesticate Honeybees to harvest honey, putting them into logs, boxes, skeps eventually beehives but taking them away from their natural source of survival and requirements, which keeps their delicate micro-environment alive.

The first common denominator for the demise of Honeybees is..... Mankind! Well, Beekeepers now and in the past!

So what is the second common denominator?

"I have found a natural phenomenon, the bees need it to survive to complete their micro-existent world, and is free. I am the first person in the world to combine Honeybees with this phenomenon, so you can imagine how the chemical companies are going to react after spending millions around the globe. I have approached Universities and Beekeeping Organisations here, in the UK, and abroad with my hypothesis but due to the infiltration of funding from chemical companies or others, University Scientist, Professors or Scholars are unable to take my hypothesis due to inevitably losing their precious funding or being biased to a chemical or bacterial answer".

Yes! It is topical, political and controversial! One single person taking on the might of a billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry and the Hierarchy of the Beekeeping World with every beekeeper past and present being the reason for their demise and the answer being a natural phenomenon which is free.

CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) in the USA is also down to Mankind for the demise of their Honeybees having the same problems as us but with one extra reason that is only in the USA.

Whatever you think after you have read my book, I will not be popular with any beekeeper, scientist, professor or anyone looking for a chemical or bacterial answer, but may, just may, stop Honeybees dying out worldwide.

That will be pleasing in itself. I am just a passionate beekeeper that has found an answer and solution. This book is a small part of the invisible world of the mysterious Honeybee that is disappearing too quickly.

"Albert Einstein did not say that famous quote about mankind dying out. It was a misquote from Albert "N" Stein an American beekeeper of the same era as Albert Einstein. However with accent, dialect and poor communication at that time it was misunderstood".

Second part;

"An HOLISTIC Way in Saving The Honeybee"

Available from

Books Illustrated (Lower High St Stourbridge)

Northern Bee Books UK

"<http://www.groovycart/beebooks>"

For discussion at the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) Conference held at the University Of Worcester on the 29th January 2011.

Varroa-still a problem in the 21st century?

Introduction

My name is John Harding, I have kept, researched, experimented, observed and used logic and common sense in trying to keep as much to nature as possible while keeping Honeybees. During the last 30 years I have invented bee equipment that does bare my name. I have not used sugar or chemicals for the past 18 years, due to the first approved licensed treatments killing a percentage of my queens.

I hoped that one day I would find a natural remedy for the parasitic mite Varroa.

This, I have now done.

Explanation

We know that Honeybees have been on this planet for 100 to 200 million years depending which book you read, so bees have evolved with planet earth. This has brought with it changing climates, polarity change, a change in continents with moving earth plates and a change in flora. In all that time dealing with disease, mites, intruders and any other alien insect or animal, even man.

Habitat

During this time, their home has been in hollow trees, caves or covered protected position so they may get away from draughts, rain or severe weather to build their amazing honeycomb nest that is kept to an accurate temperature +\_ 1 degree to raise the numbers required for survival both in summer and winter.

Mankind

Thousands of years ago man found honey. Due to the Honeybees perilous home positions being high in a cave or high up in a tree, man decided to re-home



the Honeybee into logs, boxes, skeps and then beehives so as to make it easier to harvest honey. A form of domestication.

Has Man made a difference?

No, except for realising a unique space (Langstroth) that Honeybees respect meaning we as beekeepers can inspect our colonies with frames rather than killing off the bees that were in a skep over a sulphur pit. This observation only happened 150 years ago. Queen excluders were also invented.

Are there any other major discoveries?

Yes, Eddie Woods (a BBC sound engineer) discovered 60 years ago inside the Honeybee nest that vibration levels was measured between 190hertz and 250hertz during normal conditions however when swarming this vibration went up to 300hertz.

Was any scientific work carried out at the time or later? No! If it had we could be further along the path of understanding the Honeybee better. Beekeeping today is much the same as it was in the beginning except of course the Langstroth frame space and Queen excluder.

Have Beekeeping books changed?

No, not really except for the amount of knowledge that we have now gained about the mysterious Honeybee, it always seems to be repetition but more in depth, more of a scientific language.

Can we still learn from the Honeybee?

Yes!

How?

Using observation and logic and asking "What do Honeybees really want?".

They did not ask to be put into a box or beehive.

However, while in our care, we, as beekeepers, should give them and treat them as if they were in a wild state of nature.

We know they want and use vibration.(Woods)

We know they will respect a unique space.(Langstroth)

We know they use electromagnetic north/south in honeycomb building and in flight.

We know with a strong colony, disease and varroa can be kept to a minimum.

We also know with a colony of strength our rewards of honey is greater.

So! What do Honeybees really want?

Vibration, how is it generated? At the moment by the Honeybees themselves to ward off predators, for communication and to keep their micro existent climate to a perfect temperature for brood rearing, but is that sufficient? Unfortunately NO!

Can it be found elsewhere? YES! Planet Earth (NASA)

Planet earth has evolved, so trees, animals, plants, fish, birds and insects has evolved with it and so too, Honeybees, evolving with the planet. Which is why Honeybees not only need a high vibration of 250hertz to sustain their microenvironment but actively look for it by swarming.

How could man know this? You cannot see, feel, touch or sense it.

Planet earth vibrates constantly at 7.83hertz (NASA) unless disturbed.

Honeybees vibrate at between 190htz and 250htz (Woods)

Honeybees are placed by man in a beehive where man wants it, if this is on 7.83htz the bees have to work 31.9 times greater just to stand still. I have reason to believe this weakens their immune system and defence mechanism becoming an easy target for any alien predators like Varroa. Now, not being able to cope, over-stressed, disorder with eventual collapse, dying or disappearance is inevitable.

Does planet earth vibrate at this higher level of 250htz?

Yes, transmitted upwards through underground rivers.

These rivers are everywhere around the planet, like i.e.; blood vessels in our own body. Remember it has taken 4 billion years to get to where we are today. Everything has evolved together to be where it is and why it is there for a reason. The climate, planet earth and logic has dictated that.

Where does the higher earth vibration come from and how?

Planet earths normal vibration of 7.83htz gets interrupted by hollow chambers of running water/fluid creating friction allowing oscillation to resonate to become an Electromagnetic Wave Vibration which will increase it up to and above 250htz.

Sound familiar?

The rivers/lines of fluid are normally very close to each other varying in depth and only being up to 4 feet wide, like a cobweb, zig zagging their way across the planet at depths of 200 feet or 300 feet creating vibration and rising upwards to the surface and skywards, creating an electromagnetic curtain that reaches to approximately 30,000 feet. (Birds use this curtain to migrate thousands of miles).

I.e. There are 8 rivers/lines in my 3 bed detached house and 80 foot garden, so they are not miles apart.

What is the connection of Honeybee vibration 250hertz and Earth vibration 250hertz?

We know that Honeybees maintain this vibration within their nests (Woods) It is just too much of a coincidence, using logic, that bees are drawn to it when they swarm. They have evolved together over millions of years. Honeybees, Wasps, Bumble bees, Ants, Cats and much more are all being attracted to and found above earths higher vibration.

The honeybees need this higher vibration so they work 31.9 times less. Then are able to deal with any unwelcome intruders, like the Varroa mite. All organism are attracted to or repelled from these lines.

Are Honeybees drawn to Planet Earth higher vibration?

YES! In various ways.

Swarms

Yes, every time they swarm. Honeybees always settle above a 250hz line. This has been checked on every swarm collected, about 30, in the past 3 years.

Bait hives

All bait hives placed above a line attracted a swarm.

Abandoned hives

Whenever I was called out to inspect abandoned hives there was always one beehive above a line. This was the only hive with bees in and thriving. The others had died.

Self selection

Apiaries were left for 4 years to ascertain for self selection. After this time the only hives that survived were above a line, all the others had died out.

Varroa resistant strain

In my early days of queen rearing I too thought I had a resistant strain only to find out every one that showed these qualities was above a line. I could not understand why they were so poor when moved to a new site, having shown perfect qualities when in the original site. (This was before I knew about the lines). Any beekeeper that thinks he/she has a Varroa resistant strain. I can guarantee will always be above a line.

Feral Colonies

They have not been killed off by Varroa, it was an assumption, not scientific. Beekeepers are to blame due to putting hives in the wrong place where they die out with Varroa, so no swarms or feral colonies. Feral colonies are still out there surviving. Reduced in numbers, yes, but they are always found above a line.

Sheffield University

I was invited by Ricarda Kather to explain my hypothesis, while there I checked their apiary without any prior knowledge not knowing which was the best or worst beehive as all looked identical. These I believe were used for Varroa hygiene. I found the two best beehives that gave the best hygienic results. These were above a line.

Observations.

Hygienic behaviour

My apiaries have not changed during my beekeeping so observations have been made pre-lines. During all these years Cleanliness, Hygiene and Grooming have always been noticed to be far better than others within the same apiary not realising at that time they were on a line. Honeybees can deal with Varroa when above a line.

Honey yield

When above a line the honey yield is always 2 or 3 times greater.

Queens

The colonies has tended to supersede rather than swarm. Clearly they are in the right place so why swarm?

This does beg the question "Is swarming induced by man?" being put in the wrong place by man. How long have they been trying to tell us?

Case studies

Case study 1 (within the same apiary)

Take 2 hives of similar size and queen ("A/B"), both infested with Varroa, place "A" above a line, place "B" away from the line.

Hive A; within 6 to 8 weeks this hive will have very little Varroa or none at all and thriving requiring supers.

Hive B; after 6 to 8 weeks will still be heavily ridden with Varroa and much weaker.

Next season reverse these same two hives (if B is still alive) You will observe B becomes Varroa free and A is infested with Varroa.

If you wish using 2 apiaries in the same year the above exchange can be done after 3 months.

"I have used this on countless occasions, with many hives, and the results always being the same"

Case study 2 (within the same apiary)

Take 2 hives of similar size and queen ("C/D"), both infested with Varroa, place "C" above a line, place "D" away from the line.

Hive C; within 6 to 8 weeks this hive will have very little or no Varroa (above as A).

Hive D will be as B, heavily ridden with Varroa.

After 3 months change over the queens from C and D, becoming CD and DC.

CD; You would imagine CD would improve D to be Varroa free, not so, it carries on being ridden with Varroa.

DC; Is still Varroa free.

Conclusion for both case studies.....It is not strain or queen quality but position to where and what the beehive is placed above, i.e.; an Electromagnetic Geopathic Stress Line that vibrates at 250hertz.

Is it the honeybees dealing with Varroa or Varroa not liking the higher vibration?

There will always be questions, especially to a way forward. (I have the answer for that to).

This is just one question answered to stop honeybees dying.

Thank you for reading my hypothesis which is in my book and available.

"An HOLISTIC Way in Saving The Honeybee"

VARROA-STILL A PROBLEM IN THE 21ST CENTURY? NOT ANY MORE!

John Harding

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harding@clavies.freereserve.co.uk 07974121472 or 01384423557.



**hurfdedurf** says:

If I may, there's something missing in your... hole-glob-thing.

Consider getting chicken wire, folding it over on itself to the holes don't line up (make the spaces in the wiring as small as possible), and cover the front of the tubes with a few inches of clearance. I've already had issues this year with birds getting at the bees, and I'd hate to see someone else have to go through it.

Nov 7, 2010. 1:58 PM **REPLY**



**gaiatechnician** says:

Nov 7, 2010. 5:24 PM [REPLY](#)

Thanks. It is probably a good idea. However there will be an issue with bees bumping their wings against the wire on the way in. On balance, I think chicken wire is an advantage. The holes are 8 or 9 inches long. Bees lay the female eggs deeper down so the birdys get males (and not all of them).  
Brian



**getstukn** says:

Sep 30, 2010. 3:06 PM [REPLY](#)

Nice instructable thanks



**mr fix it** says:

Sep 6, 2010. 12:05 PM [REPLY](#)

Very nice instructable but from the very few picture you have added of the actual animal itself this are not bees: this are wasp! the worst enemy off all for bees. You should verify with a professional but bees don't usually build nest with earth. Popular beliefs are that bees are yellow and black. This is mainly due to Disney and Pixar representation of bees. But in fact bees are usually more brownish with very discreet rings on the back of a rounded body. For bees please refer to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bees> for wasp please refer to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasp> Wasp are carnivorous animals that kill bees... if this are Wasp please kill them. Asian Wasp are currently responsible for the decline of bees in Europe. I might be wrong but please seek professional advice with a bee keeper or fireman. Thanks



**gaiatechnician** says:

Sep 6, 2010. 1:14 PM [REPLY](#)

The bees that look like wasps are called wool carder bees. Up till this year, I though they were wasps too. There are lots of different bee species in north america. (About 4000). Many are tiny, like little black flies. many are green and there are mimics that look like something else too. I have a video of the little black bees using the beevase at a link above. If solitary wasps use it too, I am not concerned. I am only concerned if it becomes a "monoculture" with only one type. I have seen the black ones, green ones, yellow ones and 2 large brown types. That is good for starters.  
Brian



**eyerobot** says:

Sep 2, 2010. 8:12 AM [REPLY](#)

It's true that we rely heavily as a species on the work that bees do. It's also true that humans generally do not love bees. The idea that we are killing ourselves when we kill the bees is not far fetched at all either, And leads me into thinking in terms of protecting myself from the bees, While still allowing them to feed, And live in the nearby trees. Since reading this instructible, I have begun using mothballs to drive out unwanted wasps, And yellowjackets from my barn. It was painless, And didn't kill a single bee, As far as i can tell. Now I dont know whats in a mothball, But I know not a single insect of any kind will go in my barn now. I took this action because my wife is deathly allergic to bee stings, And I hold a serious grudge against them, For the thousands of stings ive endured in my life. But I do not want to wipe them from the planet, Just from my buildings. So I think I will begin to create some of your designs for bee housing, But very close to the woods, So they dont think im welcoming them into my house again. Great idea, Thanks.



**mojobo1** says:

Aug 6, 2010. 3:54 PM [REPLY](#)

Extinction..? Lol no, you mean reduction in numbers in the big cities right? I live in Montana and bees are everywhere. There's thousands of honey bees and bumble bees in my back yard.



**saabstorey** says:

Aug 19, 2010. 9:38 AM [REPLY](#)

there is little correlation between globally declining numbers and your backyard numbers.



**groverbover** says:

Aug 8, 2010. 12:22 PM [REPLY](#)

Whenever some species decline, others prosper. You may be seeing the beneficiaries of the many species in decline. The decline in bee species is well documented across the US



**gaiatechnician** says:

Aug 6, 2010. 5:33 PM [REPLY](#)

Bees are declining everywhere, even in rural Montana. It is both in numbers and types of bee. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee> has info about different types of bees.



**mojobo1** says:

Aug 8, 2010. 8:43 PM [REPLY](#)

Well, I don't claim to be an expert on the matter. Nor do I want to research it, but in my opinion species naturally declines and rises over time. 3-4 years ago the Wolf population in Montana was fairly scarce for a while. Now there are way too many and farmers are complaining that the wolves are eating their cattle. So, yeah. All I'm saying is I'm not too worried about it.



**sparkleponytx** says:

Aug 9, 2010. 1:06 AM [REPLY](#)

The only reason the wolf population is doing better is due to environmental organizations like EarthJustice (<http://www.earthjustice.org/>) taking action in the courts and other places to protect the wolf. It is not due to a natural "decline and rise." If people who care didn't shove back, those who don't care would wipe out the wolves and lots of other species.



**gaiatechnician** says:

Aug 8, 2010. 10:30 PM [REPLY](#)

We are in the 6th great extinction event on this planet. "Fairly scarce" and "way to many" wolves is hardly objective. I doubt that the wolves think there are way too many of them. There is nothing natural about the bee decline worldwide (not just honey bees) Many bee extinctions over the last couple of decades is just the start of their extinction event. A species cannot rise from the dead.



**kscott** says:

Aug 15, 2010. 7:06 PM [REPLY](#)

One of the main arguments for the declining bee population (as well as other native species) is that we have vast areas of single crop fields as well as "urban deserts" where there's nothing but grass. One of the best ways to help these species is to start bouncing back is to plant lots of things that flower at different times of the year and to plant flowering hedgerows between fields.... Oh & stop it with the pesticides & herbicides!!!! Between having a variety of food types and cutting back on all the poisons it will give these species a fighting chance. BTW bison is primarily from north america & buffalo primarily from africa/asia - calling the north american species a "buffalo" is a misnomer.



**kscott** says:

Oh, & if you're really interested, work on saving the European honeybee. Although all the rest are great too, the Euro bees will pollinate ANYTHING & EVERYTHING, while most other bees limit what they pollinate.

Aug 15, 2010. 7:37 PM [REPLY](#)



**gaiatechnician** says:

I cannot help save the honey bee and most other people cannot work on saving the European honey bee either. Keeping a hive is a big job and often illegal due to bylaws. Most people live in cities like me. AND I am allergic AND I live on a street with young families. Honey bee stings can kill and they attack in groups so you are just as likely to get 5 stings as you are to get one. Part of the reason for this huge mess is because european honey bees (and their diseases and pests) are being transported thousands of miles every season. So the honey bees are sick all the time and the local bees get sick too with exotic diseases that they never had before. Even the bumble bees that they use to pollinate greenhouses are escaping and giving their new sicknesses to local bumble bees. Several species of bumble bees have already become extinct!

Aug 16, 2010. 1:30 AM [REPLY](#)



**kscott** says:

For the multiple stinging you're thinking of africanized honey bees. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley (suburbia) & helped my dad with our 2 hives. It took minimal effort to work with the bees every year & we got stung with 2 hives on our roof just as often as with 0 hives. Here's a clip on the kid of setup you want if you want to collect the honey from European bees - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/13/saving-bees-population-de\\_n\\_640795.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/13/saving-bees-population-de_n_640795.html)

Aug 16, 2010. 8:55 AM [REPLY](#)



**gaiatechnician** says:

Sorry, Kscott. I made 4 or 5 honey bee hives for my dad years ago. I am just not interested in doing it again. One sting makes me sick for a few days. So go ahead and make an instructable about honey bee hives. This one is about saving hundreds of species of threatened and unloved solitary bees. I am not going to obsess about saving 1 species of pampered drugged up medicated honey bees. Others will do that. Thanks Brian.

Aug 16, 2010. 5:27 PM [REPLY](#)



**Miles Tails Prower** says:

I like bees, they pollinate plants, and cheer me up. But I hate solitary wasps. Their annoying left-right hovering really freaks me out. If wasps would extinct, i wouldn't care.

Aug 15, 2010. 7:51 AM [REPLY](#)



**thepelton** says:

Incidentally, you mentioned solitary wasps. They pollinate fig trees when they climb in and out of the hole at the end of the green fruit.

Aug 12, 2010. 4:18 PM [REPLY](#)



**chuckr44** says:

I have many types of bees and wasps at my house. I don't know all their names but I can tell they are different. I have the 6 inch long megarhyssa wasp, down to 1/4 inch ichneumon wasps that often get into my house. These are both pretty harmless as both have ovipositors, which means it gets in the way of their stinger (megarhyssa actually has no stinger). But look out for the social (paper nest) wasps, they are aggressive. Especially yellow jackets and hornets.

Aug 12, 2010. 11:47 AM [REPLY](#)



**conrad2468** says:

I hate bees....even though they pollinate flowers and other plants..

Aug 6, 2010. 2:54 PM [REPLY](#)



**thepelton** says:

Without bees, much of the fresh fruit would not exist. It would be a bland world indeed.

Aug 7, 2010. 10:02 AM [REPLY](#)



**ac1D** says:

We are not 2000years ago, we can collect seed and do bee work. Kill every bee you see! Human for president! Bee must die!

Aug 7, 2010. 2:59 PM [REPLY](#)



**pdub77** says:

Bees are directly responsible for around one third of the food we eat each day. We don't have enough people or technology to do their job. No bees equals less food and higher prices.

Aug 8, 2010. 8:13 AM [REPLY](#)



**ac1D** says:

Killing a bee is like throwing a can out of your window. All the eco-ppl cry, but it don't harm you and it will not. It may hurt in 100years, but then, who care?

Aug 8, 2010. 6:06 PM [REPLY](#)



**bsmaka** says:

You! Out of the gene pool now! You won't be missed in 50 years... it's kind of creepy when this logic is applied to yourself. Your comments suggest such a high level of arrogance and ignorance that it is staggering to the finite mind. If you were to wipeout the bee type pollinators of the world in a lot less time then 100 years you would have world wide starvation. Please don't say something asinine like "We will just eat meat" because without these key insects you will not have the resources to feed livestock much less yourself. I am not an "eco-ppl" as you put it but I am well aware of the balance that is needed to keep humanity around. Careless actions won't in the end destroy the Earth, it will just potentially give one giant Darwin Award to the whole human race. There just won't be anyone around to watch it on youtube.

Aug 10, 2010. 7:57 AM [REPLY](#)



**ac1D** says:  
Funny how 50% of the person like the environment on the tv/internet, and don't in real life.

Aug 10, 2010. 10:30 AM [REPLY](#)



**bsmaka** says:  
How is it that 50% of a person can like the enviroment through virtual space and not like it in real life? Are they schizophrenic? Bipolar? on LSD? Please enlighten us.

Aug 10, 2010. 2:43 PM [REPLY](#)



**conrad2468** says:  
i think he means people. or a typo of the awkward plural version of people. "persons"

Aug 10, 2010. 3:06 PM [REPLY](#)



**pdub77** says:  
He's French Canadian, and probably young. All I can say.

Aug 10, 2010. 3:22 PM [REPLY](#)



**pdub77** says:  
When I say he's "French Canadian" I simply mean that he may not have a grasp of the English Language. No slurs implied. . . "young" was what I was really getting at. . . ; )

Aug 10, 2010. 3:35 PM [REPLY](#)



**ac1D** says:  
Hey, you are really good. everything you said is true :) I am Young, I am canadian, and my primary language is french. I did not even learn english in a school, so it may be bad and hard to understand. Sorry about it!

Aug 11, 2010. 1:53 AM [REPLY](#)



**pdub77** says:  
No problem, brother. I would just recommend reading a little bit about bees and what they do for us (meaning humans). You don't have to like getting stung to appreciate their impact. And just so you know, bees don't usually sting unless provoked in some way, Africanized (killer) bees notwithstanding.

Aug 11, 2010. 12:33 PM [REPLY](#)



**conrad2468** says:  
lol i hate bees. but at least they are a necessary evil. On the other side i hate mosquitos...they do nothing for the ecosystem except suck blood and carry disease. and make a tasty snack for bats and whatnot....worthless scum.

Aug 10, 2010. 8:11 AM [REPLY](#)



**bryony\_s** says:  
That's ok, you can hand pollinate everything then. Already in China, one pear orchard has been hand pollinated due to the decline in bee populations. A whole village was employed to do it. Not only do bees pollinate our food plants, they are also 'cornerstone' ecosystem species: their pollination role is so significant that many other species are likely to follow if they become extinct. If you think this is something for only 'eco-ppl' to cry about, consider the recent UN report on biodiversity, which concluded the cost to humanity of not addressing loss of habitat, biodiversity and the 'ecosystem services' they make available to humans would be far greater than ignoring climate change.

Aug 9, 2010. 2:38 PM [REPLY](#)



**pdub77** says:  
Great attitude.

Aug 9, 2010. 4:19 AM [REPLY](#)



**Exocetid** says:  
Haven't they developed a robot bee yet? Thought I saw an *Instructable* on how to make one...

Aug 8, 2010. 8:47 AM [REPLY](#)



**kinetic\_elite** says:  
DARPA did! Time to check wikileaks. Just kidding, we were just lucky to get a snippet of it. Popsci.com

Aug 24, 2010. 6:57 AM [REPLY](#)



**ac1D** says:  
If I am allergic to bee.. Will I be allergic to mechanic bee?

Aug 8, 2010. 6:08 PM [REPLY](#)



**Exocetid** says:  
Depends on how well it is made.

Aug 8, 2010. 7:10 PM [REPLY](#)



**Thinkenstein** says:  
Good instructable. It may not be the ultimate solution to the problem, but I don't see that it can harm the situation any, and it can only help to have more habitat available to the solitary bees. -- Anyway, I am glad to see that everybody has the bee's interests in mind and that we are applying our creativity toward friendly cooperation.

Aug 10, 2010. 2:16 AM [REPLY](#)



**pigpenguin** says:

Aug 4, 2010. 8:25 PM [REPLY](#)

Im pretty sure that colony collapse is a big part of the problem, and it happens that bee's are quite social... good instructable though

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**gaiatechnician** says:

Aug 6, 2010. 12:28 AM [REPLY](#)

"Colony collapse disorder" is just a catch-all made up name for a host of different things that are killing bees. It just gives people a sense of futility and uselessness. The powers that be want you to stay out of their business and this magic mysterious disorder is perfect. We know that many pesticides kill bees. Doesn't stop us using them. We know that bt toxins kill bees. Doesn't stop us deploying plants full of these toxins. As a private individual, you cannot stop those things. But you CAN make bee habitat. Habitat loss kills lots of bees. It really does not matter how many flowers you plant if the flowers contain bt toxin or if there is nowhere nearby for the bees to hide and lay their eggs. Once you make a little solitary bee nest, you will see their habits, you might change yours a little and you will become closer to nature. Remember that with most solitary bees, there is NO colony to collapse. But various species are still becoming extinct.

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**idogis1** says:

Aug 9, 2010. 3:23 AM [REPLY](#)

No... ugh. The reason the SCIENTIFIC community coined the term "Colony collapse disorder" is because the simple explanation, pesticides couldn't account for a large portion of hive deaths. The dilemma is that colonies are dying, regardless of the level of toxicity in their environments. In remote forests with no farm land for hundreds of miles and water that was free of pesticides honey bees were still dying. Recent studies suggest that the actual cause was radio waves interfering with hematite crystals inside the bees that they use for navigation. Although the reason within their biology is unknown, radio frequencies commonly used for cell phones cause the queens to lay fewer eggs, causing the population to slowly dwindle until there is an insufficient number of workers to maintain the hive and it collapses. Keep in mind, this only affects honey bees and wild bees in Europe, Asia, and Africa, the species that develop hematite crystals for long distance navigation. The solitary bees native to the Americas are not affected. Building a bee habitat really doesn't do anything. A habitat can only support a set number of bumble bees or solitary bees, and in any given environment there will always be significantly more felled trees for them to make their nests. This just adds one more tree. If you really want to save the honey bees, vital for the environmental stability of Europe, Asia, and Africa, not vital for the Americas but necessary for large scale farming, buy a nucleus hive from a local bee keeper. Rather than have to deal with a rogue colony, some bee keepers will transplant the new queens and some workers to nucleus hives which can be sold to farmers and gardeners far far away from the bee keeper so he doesn't have to deal with them. The alternative is killing the new queens, so... lets buy come hives.

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