



December 2013 Bee-Mail



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Things we are thankful for

Many new people reading Bee-Mail

-  We've added another 2,200 Bee-Mail readers since last year. That means there are many more gardeners who care about gentle mason bees. **You** are the biggest influence with protecting our future food supply. THANK YOU for spreading the word. Your future farmers/orchards will thank you for your efforts today.

Partnership with the National Garden Club

-  We appreciate the immense power of a partner like NGC Inc. To have their help to spread the word about mason bees to their clubs and communities across the US will create an incredible upcoming season.

Great Crown Bees teammates



- We added a new Office Manager (Debbie) and Warehouse Manager (Tim). Not only will they provide new thoughts and energy, they bring great depth to other key teammates like Elsie (our Chief Noodler) and Hien (our Social Media guru).

Awareness of the worldwide bee plight is increasing



- Although it's horrible that bees worldwide are facing terrible losses, it's good that we see Time Magazine with a front cover issue on honey bees. Costco had a great story as well. Many other magazines, blogs, and articles are helping the public understand we need to do something. *The more people are **aware of the actions they can do** rather than just reading about bad news, the sooner we'll be able to protect our food supply.* (Mason bees are a wonderful answer... we just need more cocoons!)

Competitors far and wide to Crown Bees.

- This might seem odd, but we truly appreciate our peers in British Columbia, Utah, Virginia, and France. We wish them well this next year. Only through reaching gardeners from multiple sources will we be able to gain more awareness to raising mason bees.

OBA moving forward



- Orchard Bee Association, a professional mason bee pollination organization, is gaining traction. We're thankful for their collaboration and team of great people who will be receiving your excess bees in future years. Much research is needed still!

Cyber Monday Specials



Today, through Monday night, we have 25% off all of our products. Why not give mason bees to your friends and family? ([Click here!](#))



On Tuesday, we'll have special **Holiday Packages** available. From the BeeAdventure to the Chalet with trays, each will include mason bees, our pamphlet, and other useful items. We've thought through how to gift wrap the packages as an option... Hibernating bees will still need to go into the fridge in their little silk bags! 😊

Twitter and Facebook “Shout Outs!”

Hien researches, writes, and coordinates our Social Bee network. It's a constant adventure finding new articles and pictures to tweet, post, and pin. I'm VERY thankful for her efforts.



We'd like to thank Greenwood Hardware, Paul Bee, Thierry Figuet, Marilyn McQuire, Elsie Parker, Ethnogeology, and a host of others who comment, question, and like our posts in **Facebook**. Your “liking” us and reposting our Facebook posts helps others see and learn about bees. *All bees*, not just the mason bee!



Twitter continues to be a source of news for many readers across the globe. Many of our twitter followers are from the UK. I believe this is due to excessive loss of bees in the past decades due to poor farming practices creating much awareness. **What occurs in the world today to our pollinators is frightening.** We encourage you to follow us and help spread the snippets of information we find. @Marcos, @PortlandNursery, @Irving_Aquino @PDX_Nature_Nut, @SonnyBees, @Elizabethzen, @InsectRecovery, and many, many other teammates spread the word of “awareness” and “action to change behavior”. Thank you!



Pinterest is still new to me. Many Pinterest followers repin our pictures that we're continually finding and adding. (Thanks Hien for all of your efforts here!)



Social Media is a wonderful tool to reach many people with a great message. **“Food on the table”** is our goal. We know that the challenged honey bee needs help. Only through awareness and helping gardeners learn to raise gentle bees can these bees ultimately get shifted to our orchards and crops. Please help get your friends/family/neighbors involved.

Join us in reaching others through your own Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest contacts.

Crown Bees Open House

Earlier this month we had an open house in our new warehouse/office.

We met 50+ neighbors in the Seattle area. It was extremely fun helping bee-friends harvest their own cocoons, teach a bit about what everyone found in their tubes/reeds/wood trays, and how to store the cocoons for the winter.



Note:

Don't forget to place a tablespoon of water in your [humidibee!!!](#) (If the pad is too wet, put in less water, if dry~add more. We don't want you dehydrating your bees!) Also, leave a center hole in the middle of the cocoons. Too many cocoons will heat the adjacent cocoons up. The end result should be a “whirlpool” looking concept.



Mason Bees in local Nurseries



David Davis, of Charleston, SC introduced us recently to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in his town. As a result, David will be able to purchase Crown Bees product in town without our having to mail bees/tubes/houses.

Three things happen when you're buying from a local nursery/store:

1. You're able to not have to pay for shipping
2. Other visiting gardeners/wildlife enthusiasts are introduced to mason bees for the first time
3. You are supporting a small business that desperately needs your resources.

Help us spread mason bees to others across the US and Canada.

- Introduce the store manager to the concept of mason bees being sold to their customers.
- Have them call us (425) 949-7954. We have a few slides that help them understand how easy they are to sell in a store.
- Or lastly, send us an email with the store you believe should have bees near you. We'll call them!

We have multiple stores in about 14 states/provinces that carry our products. Thank you, Store Owners, for teaming with us!

In our next issue...

- January is a time to calculate what is missing for your bees in the spring. We'll tell you what to think about!

Thank you for caring about raising solitary mason bees! Your success is important to us.