



December 2015 Bee-Mail



Click icons to follow

For best viewing download the pictures, or visit www.crownbees.com

In this issue:

- [Check on hibernating bees](#)
- [Why we're thankful!](#)
- [Dave attends the ESA last week](#)
- [Introducing the BeeHaven](#)
- [Holiday Specials for you](#)
- [Meet Sophie, our warehouse dog](#)

Check on hibernating bees

✓ **Our monthly reminder...** Add some water into your [HumidiBee](#) so your cocoons don't dry out. A tablespoon or so is fine.

Moldy cocoons?

Mold is an airborne spore that originates from a local source such as cheese or produce and spreads to other living things—elsewhere, such as nearby cheese, moldy grapes, etc. Natural airflow in a refrigerator may transport mold to your hibernating cocoons. While this may be unsightly, it won't harm your sleeping bees.



What to do:

Simply wash your cocoons in a bath of 1 TBL bleach to 1 cup of cold water for a minute or so. Rinse them in cold water, pat them dry and place them back into the HumidiBee. You may want to wash the lower pads in the same rinse.

We have so much to be thankful for!

In a world full of both wonder and strife, we at Crown Bees find much to be thankful for.

- We are seeing **more awareness from people** that are questioning where their food comes from, what has been done to it, and the environmental damage that can occur as a result of pesticide use and monoculture. More gardeners are starting to raise some of their food! We have a long ways to go for worldwide awareness, but we're seeing progress. I did a quick video a few weeks ago on this. [Click here](#) to view.
- While slightly challenging at times, **Crown Bees has again doubled in size** this year. Ensuring that we have enough bees, continuing to offer high quality products, and that we answer every phone call and email is important to us. Much of our growth is due to you and you telling your friends and family about these gentle bees. Thanks for helping to spread the word.
- **Bee-Mail readers increased by 4,000!** The number of gardeners who receive our monthly newsletter continues to grow. The East Coast is becoming more actively aware of raising gentle bees.
- With peers of ours, **mason bees were placed in western orchards** between CA, OR, UT, and WA. One cherry farmer in Omak, Washington gained 6 tons of additional cherries/acre. He received about \$100,000 for those extra cherries! We expect to double the amount of bees in orchards for 2017.
- I'm very appreciative to have **attracted some wonderful marketing and sales teammates** (Charlie and Danielle). Charlie and his kids wish you a Happy Thanksgiving in this [short video](#).
- **Finding solitary bee companies in Switzerland and New Zealand.** Word is spreading about the benefits behind mason and leafcutter bees. [Wild Bees + Partners](#) and [Creative Woodcraft](#) are both ethical teammates and share our vision. We support their efforts in every possible manner.



Dave attended ESA last week

Last week I attended the Entomology Society of America's annual conference in Minneapolis. There were between 5,000-7,000 entomologists, agronomists, and crop and soils scientists spread out over the Minneapolis Convention Center.



**Synergy in Science:
Partnering for Solutions**

ASA • CSSA • SSSA • ESA
2015 MEETING
Nov. 15-18 | Minneapolis, MN

I loved seeing so many extremely smart people in one place to network, teach, share, and learn. There were 20-30 breakout sessions and symposiums every half hour that had a researcher talk about their research, how they conducted the research, the results they saw, and then each finished with their conclusions and a few minutes of Q&A. ...and then on to the next researcher

I was asked to speak at a morning session on "Mason Bees, the Union between Bugs and Dirt." My presentation covered the need to meet our increasing food demand by pairing the right bee with the right crop. I explained our business plan of gathering mason bees through the Bee BuyBack program and the impacts we'd have on more food across the

world. Without the researcher's discoveries and experiments over the past 30 years, we wouldn't be talking about mason bees today.

We hope that a few researchers will think through some of the research questions I proposed in an effort to encourage and support commercial mason bee pollination.

I also sat in an audience and watched several panels discuss "sustainability." Several giants like General Mills, Syngenta and Mosaic participated. I was able to meet with representatives from each afterwards to understand a bit more of what they're doing about chemicals and native bees.

One thing I learned was there's an alliance of these giants working on a program called "Field to Market". Their goal is to develop better farming practices for grain crops. I listened to their approach and felt that progress was being made.

I didn't quite agree with the accepted use of the word "sustainability." I feel this means that what you take from the land is replaced so that you are able to do what you're doing forever. The word in the panels seemed to mean "we'll try to do good things to the land." There is a difference in definitions. If you have to add phosphates and nitrates to your soil each year, that's not sustainable and the farming practice should be reconsidered.

Lastly, I attended a session organized by Heather Connelly of Cornell. One of the speakers was Lucas from Argentina. He was awarded a grant to better understand what variables are important to increase crop production in poor countries of South America and Africa. The number one variable amazed me. *The right bee in the right crop can increase farm production by 2.4 times.*



I recorded a quick video last night about this session. [View it here.](#)

Introducing the BeeHaven

We'd like people to learn that there are other bees besides the honey bee. An idea that we came up with was to have a low cost entry kit that introduces gardeners to leafcutter bees.

This kit would need to include a small house, nesting holes, and enough summer leafcutter bees to allow the user to see and experience how this particular gentle bee can work in their yard.

Here's what we came up with!



Once the gardener learns about gentle summer bees, we hope that they will try raising mason bees the following season.

With more and more gardeners raising mason bees, we hope to have more bees and fruit available in the future.

Holiday Specials for you!

We'd like to encourage you to consider giving gentle bees to friends and family this holiday season.

Here are a few specials we've dreamed up for you. You will find them under "[Holiday Specials](#)" on the shop menu.

GIFTING WITH THE FUTURE IN MIND

#BEEPRESSENT

Cyber Weekend Sale
20% off All Pollination Kits!
 Nov. 26th - Nov. 30th

CrownBees
 www.CrownBees.com

HELP THE GLOBAL BACKYARD

BEE WITH PURPOSE

BUY 2 SUMMER LEAFCUTTER BEES, GET 1 FREE!
 Nov. 26th - Nov. 30th

GIFTING WITH THE FUTURE IN MIND.

#BEEPRESSENT

CrownBees
 www.CrownBees.com

HELP THE GLOBAL BACKYARD

BEE WITH PURPOSE

"BEE HAVEN"
 OUR NEWEST BUDGET-FRIENDLY STARTER POLLINATION KIT!

GIFTING WITH THE FUTURE IN MIND

#BEEPRESSENT

CYBER WEEKEND SALE!
30% OFF BEE HAVEN kit
 Nov. 26th - Nov. 30th

CrownBees
 www.CrownBees.com

HELP THE GLOBAL BACKYARD

BEE WITH PURPOSE

For all visitors to Crown Bees in December, here's an offer on all BeeWorks kits:

**GIFTING WITH THE
FUTURE IN MIND**

December Blowout!
10% off ALL Bee-Raising Kits!
Dec. 1st - Dec. 18th

#BEEPRESNT

CrownBees
www.crownbees.com

**HELP THE GLOBAL
BACKYARD**

**BEE
WITH
ME**

Meet Sophie, our warehouse dog

We are thankful to have a wonderful labradoodle in the Crown Bees team. Sophie joined us this summer and brings about joy and laughter throughout the day.

She's free to walk between the office and warehouse and whenever you hear someone laughing, you will find her nearby. She has a wonderful temperament and politely welcomes any visitor within our front lobby.

Surprisingly, she is also a very large lap warmer. As funny as this seems, she can curl up on your lap while you're working or snooze peacefully at your feet.

Sophie's only downfall is her love for tennis balls. She is relentless with dropping the ball in your lap to chuck it out the door, down the hallway, or outside in the parking lot. We have each dodged flying tennis balls...

If you're in the neighborhood, come drop on by. Sophie would love to meet you!

