

Hints for the 2009 Calendar Contest

We've ramped up the topic a bit for 2009. Recall that in 2008 we had as a topic beekeepers and beeyards, and received a host of beekeepers in their yards, beekeeping equipment, and scenic beeyard shots. In 2007 we had as a topic bees and flowers, certainly a topic near and dear to every beekeeper's heart. And as you would expect, we received lots of bees on, or very near flowers. Action shots were recommended, and we got a lot of them.

For 2008 we are looking for photos of queens. Queens on frames with a retinue, queens laying eggs, queens all alone, queens queens, queens. We want pretty queens, those large yellow Italians or their cousins the Cordovans. Carniolans, dark and black and suspicious. And mixed blood queens, from where we don't know. Queens in a swarm. Queens mating. Queens emerging from birth cells. Queens dead on the landing board. Queens being cleaned or fed or balled or touched.

But the usual suggestions still apply. The finished photo should be nearly square...look at the photos this year. The queen should be the center of attention, but not necessarily at the center of the photo. And the queen should be easily seen...not like those normally not found. If on a frame, look at the rest of the frame...old, jagged, black wax? Maybe not the best. Holding up a frame? What's in the background...another beekeeper, or your burn pile, or an out of focus lawn? But Queens On Frames is just too easy, what with fancy digital cameras everybody has. We're looking for balance, color, layout, unusual situations, beautiful bees along with the queens, something that's not what you normally see. What about two queens? Or ... well, you get the idea. Let's see what you can do.

Just for reference, take a look at the



horizontal shot, the smaller one first. Then, look at how it was cropped to make an excellent cover shot. When you shoot a whole frame with a queen, you get everything. So get creative and use your imagination.

Send photos via email, on CD or DVD. Slides and prints perfectly acceptable. Send to me before October 1, 2008 at Kim@BeeCulture.com, or to Calendar



Contest 2008, 623 West Liberty St. Medina, OH 44256. Electronic shots should be about 5" x 7", and at 300 dpi. Don't send low res shots requesting we contact you if it wins. It won't. Send your best the first time. Photos will not be returned, remember that. We may want to use your photo later in the magazine or on the cover, and if so will contact you accordingly. Good Luck!

Please make sure you label everything with your name, address, phone # and email. If you send a CD please label the actual CD itself. If you send photos label each one and if you send email please include name, address, phone #. This is critical because things can easily get separated and then we don't know who the photo belongs to.