

The theme for Bee Culture's 2011 Beekeeping Calendar is "Show Me Your Beeyard". This somewhat vague theme encompasses almost everything you can think of that has anything to do with where you keep your bees...at home, an outyard, rooftop, vacant lot, holding yard for pollination. City, suburb, small town, out in the country.

Photos can be of one colony or five you have at home, 50 in an outyard, pallets or singles in a pollination setting, thousands in a holding yard, 10 behind the barn, where ever you have bees. Got bees up on a stand to keep bear away? In a garage? Front porch?

And seasons...we'd like all seasons...so keep that in mind this winter...snow covered hives, beeyards with Spring blossoming trees, Summer flowers, Fall blossoms or something in between. Don't forget background...are you in the country, but on the horizon are...mountains, the ocean, a city skyline, a small town main street...show us what you get to see, every time you work the bees. And roads to the beeyard, with the hives just showing. What do you do to get to that beeyard? Cross a creek? Climb a fence?

Fences for bear or cattle are good to show, hive stands, too. Do you do something nobody else does, do it some way nobody else does, do it at a different time...And don't forget beekeepers working in a beeyard...hives broken down, installing hundreds of packages, or harvesting, or picking up after a bear, or storm damage, or flooding...

How many ways can we photograph a beeyard? How many beeyards are there?

Beeyards...that's the theme for Bee Culture's 2011 Beekeeping Calendar. Put up a sign, make a note, tell your family...this is the year you'll enter the contest, and this is the year your picture gets published. And it'll appear in the nearly 21,000 copies we print...well, that's how many this year (up from the 13,000 we did the first time we did this) ... so get busy and start looking at your beeyards

Hints for the photos you take and enter. Note the photos for this year's calendar, and even previous years if you saved one. The subject is centered usually. If you take a photo that's wide, we'll have to trim it to fit, and too often we trim off something you thought was important, or, it destroys your photo completely because it doesn't fit. And beeyards tend toward long, not square, so keep that in mind.

Same goes for tall...keep the important parts of the photo centered, not too tall, not all on the bottom, or left or right. These are almost square photos, and what you see through your lens isn't square. Mentally crop what you see before you push the button.

Don't stand too far away, or too close, and watch that light. A beeyard that's partially shaded during the day will show up very shaded unless you have a really good flash. Cloudy day shots outside are best because there's no shadow and even contrast, but then the bees aren't usually happy so it's a tradeoff, but too much contrast ruins the photo, so make sure your object is all in the sun, all in the shade, or it's sunup or sundown so there is no shadow. And try it at different times of the day...morning and afternoon. Consider an evening shot with a flash, or early morning in the fog. Consider a misty day, or hard rain. Wind can add a touch of drama to the trees and bushes.

THIS IS IMPORTANT. Submit your photos as a jpg file, attached to an email, not embedded in the email. Send one photo per email, and include WITH EACH EMAIL YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER. We got over a thousand photos this year and keeping them all straight when they are not identified gets to be a real difficult task...and there aren't many of us here to do that. If it isn't identified, it won't even get looked at, so please label each email.

If you send a CD with photos, write ON THE CD (NOT ON THE ENVELOPE OR BOX) YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER. The same rules apply...no information and it won't even get looked at. We're sorry, but we just don't have the time or people to organize a lot of photos and try and keep them all straight if they are not identified. Make it easy for us and you stand a much better chance of getting your shot in the magazine.

Deadline for submissions for Bee Culture's 2011 Beekeeping Calendar Contest is October 1, 2010 in our office. So mark your calendars now (Oh, look, it's already marked on your 2010 Calendar!) and get going! Once entered, photos can be used by Bee Culture magazine.