

The theme for Bee Culture's 2012 Beekeeping Calendar is "Workin' Bees". This somewhat vague theme encompasses almost everything you can think of that has anything to do with what you do in a beehive...inspecting, moving, installing, splitting, harvesting, wintering...the list goes on and on. We want beekeepers keeping bees...suited up, tools at the ready, workin' bees.

Photos can be of a single beekeeper, a couple of beekeepers or a whole crew. They can be families, friends, neighbors, a club...beekeepers keeping bees. That's what we want. And doing everything beekeepers do at all times of the day...early morning, midday, at night. Anytime beekeepers are keeping bees is what we want.

And seasons...we'd like all seasons...so keep that in mind too. Summer and fall, winter and spring. All year long, someone, somewhere is workin' bees.

How many ways can we photograph a beekeepers? How many beekeepers are there?

Workin' Bees...that's the theme for Bee Culture's 2012 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 25,000 copies we print...well, that's how many this year (up from the 13,000 we did the first time we did this), plus the several thousand that go on newsstands across the country ... so get busy and start looking at what you can do.

Photos for this year's calendar will be different. They won't be square as in the past, but will fill the whole of the top page...no garish ad on the right side this year.

So the subject is centered usually. If you take a photo that's too 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. Your best shot will be a little wider than tall, and fill the page with action.

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 nearly square but not quite 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. Beekeepers that are 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. If inside, watch the light too. Try your shot both with, and without a flash to see which works best for the light.

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 resources 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 2012 Beekeeping Calendar Contest is October 1, 2011 in our office. So mark your calendars now (Oh, look, it's already marked on your 2011 Calendar!) and get going! Once entered, photos can be used by Bee Culture magazine but the copyright remains with you for your use.