

To Bee or Not to Bee

Written by Sandra Educate
Tuesday, 20 August 2019 08:22



Well, of course it's better to bee. Let's start with honey bees. There's a lot of conflicting information about whether or not honey bees are endangered. The honey bee is actually an immigrant from Europe, Africa and Asia; not native to this country at all, so honey bees are not on *our* Endangered Species List.

In fact, Colony Collapse, the condition which contributed to the demise of many colonies of honey bees, is on the wane, and the honey bee population is actually increasing! True honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, are a single species and the *only* bee which produces honey and lives in hives. It is heartening to note that more and more homes are welcoming honey bee hives to their yards. Back yards' diversified plantings provide pollen and nectar all year long in the Lowcountry. If you notice a beard shaped swarm in trees, notify the Beaufort/Jasper County Beekeepers Association at 843+384-3803. If you don't bother the bees, they are no danger to you, but many beekeepers are looking for swarms to populate new hives and they will come and safely remove them.

Mason bees are known as gentle, hardworking bees, and are easy for the homeowner to

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