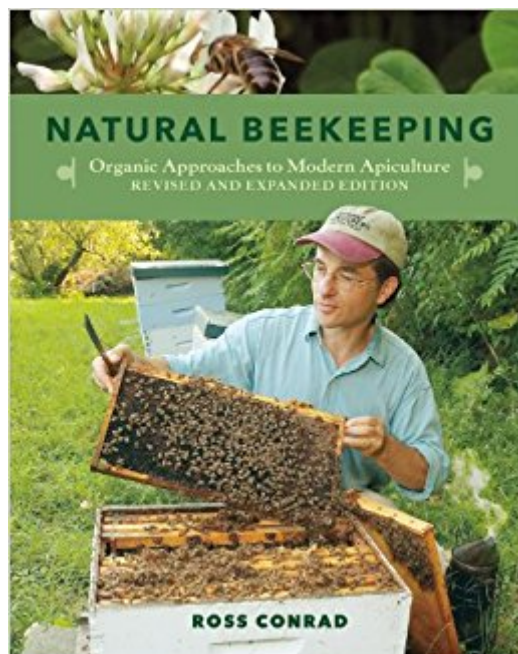




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# Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches To Modern Apiculture, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

Today's beekeepers face unprecedented challenges, a fact that is now front-page news with the spread of "colony collapse disorder." Newly introduced pests like varroa and tracheal mites have made chemical treatment of hives standard practice, but pest resistance is building, which in turn creates demand for new and even more toxic chemicals. In fact, there is evidence that chemical treatments are making matters worse. It's time for a new approach. Now revised and updated with new resources and including full-color photos throughout, *Natural Beekeeping* offers all the latest information in a book that has already proven invaluable for organic beekeepers. The new edition offers the same holistic, sensible alternative to conventional chemical practices with a program of natural hive management, but offers new sections on a wide range of subjects, including: The basics of bee biology and anatomy Urban beekeeping Identifying and working with queens Parasitic mite control Hive diseases Also, a completely new chapter on marketing provides valuable advice for anyone who intends to sell a wide range of hive products. Ross Conrad brings together the best "do no harm" strategies for keeping honeybees healthy and productive with nontoxic methods of controlling mites; eliminating American foulbrood disease without the use of antibiotics; selective breeding for naturally resistant bees; and many other detailed management techniques, which are covered in a thoughtful, matter-of-fact way. Whether you are a novice looking to get started with bees, an experienced apiculturist looking for ideas to develop an integrated pest-management approach, or someone who wants to sell honey at a premium price, this is the book you've been waiting for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Natural Beekeeping is a wonderful book, beautifully written and illustrated, about how one can have healthy hives of bees without using synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, or artificial diets.” Ross Conrad explains in fine detail that the key ingredients of organic beekeeping are disease-resistant stock, favorable apiary sites, and good colony management, plus a reverence and respect for the bees.

—Thomas D. Seeley, Cornell University, author of *Honeybee Democracy* and *The Wisdom of the Hive*

Library Journal- "Originally published in 2007 as colony collapse disorder was making headlines across the world, this updated edition by veteran beekeeper Conrad (former president, Vermont Beekeepers Assn.) is a holistic reference guide to organic apiculture. While newer parasites like varroa mites are making chemical treatments a normal part of hive ownership, many people are still looking for ways to manage their hives organically in order to reduce the amount of chemicals that affect bees, other pollinators, and the environment in general. This new edition adds information about urban beekeeping, top-bar hives, and marketing for those interested in selling honey and other products from their beehives. A comprehensive glossary and resource list will assist novice and experienced apiarists searching for equipment, mite-resistant bee suppliers, and pesticide testing and reporting agencies.

VERDICT Conrad’s personal experiences and easy tone and the wealth of information make this title perfect for beekeepers looking for more natural hive management options. Highly recommended for purchase wherever urban farming is taking root.”

Ross Conrad learned his craft from the late Charles Mraz, world-renowned beekeeper and founder of Champlain Valley Apiaries in Vermont. Former president of the Vermont Beekeepers Association, Conrad is a regular contributor to *Bee Culture* and *The Magazine of American Beekeeping*. He has led bee-related presentations and taught organic beekeeping workshops and classes throughout North America for many years. His small beekeeping business, Dancing Bee Gardens, supplies friends, neighbors, and local stores with honey and candles, among other bee related products, and provides bees for Vermont apple-pollination in spring.

Gary Nabhan is the W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Arizona, as well as the permaculture designer and orchard-keeper of Almuniya de los Zopilotes Experimental Farm in Patagonia, Arizona. Widely acknowledged as a pioneer in the local-food movement and grassroots seed conservation, Nabhan was honored by *Utne Reader* in 2011 as one of twelve people making

the world a better place to live. A recipient of a MacArthur Genius Award, his twenty-four books have been translated into six languages.

As a beekeeper that has only one year under my belt, I found this book had some interesting information. It is more philosophical than practical. That's fine if it is philosophy you are looking for. If you are looking for practical nuts and bolts information on how to raise bees organically, this is not the book for you.

this is the most detailed book to learn chemical free bee keeping. it is a little hard to read i think the author is a little smarter than most people. he also spends too much time preaching organic. i got a note book to take notes as i read i got a lot of good information that i have not found anywhere else. i wanted to get away from chemical mite treatments, i learned a lot about using essential oils and splitting hives at the right time. this is the best bee book ever

While the author seems to be a little 'preachy' at times about the "evils" of industrial beekeeping, he does provide an EXCELLENT resource for handling bees in a more natural and non-chemical way. He focuses on essential oils and 'soft' treatments. The best part of this book is that he explains WHY things work biologically. I would recommend that any new beekeeper first purchase the "dummies" book, read it, and then purchase this book as well. It fills in gaps that I didn't even know that I had in my knowledge base.

Full of detailed information. Some I've seen before, but the good thing is much of the methods and techniques were explained with more specific details that made the difference in many new situations. Experience is the best teacher and Mr. Conrad provided his to help me and my bees continue to gain more over the long haul. Very helpful.

The author undoubtedly knows his stuff about bees. He has tons of experience and is a good writer. I enjoyed the way he focuses on sustainability in beekeeping and is open to new ideas. I like the way he offers multiple points of view on how best to handle each kind of problem you may encounter, from insect pests, to neighbors who hate bees, etc.

The bee population is on life support in the U.S. We are in danger of losing as much as one third the food we depend on because of lack of pollinators. The large beekeepers spread disease when

the hives are transported all over the country. Small, well trained beekeepers are needed. This book address many of the problems, but I do not believe there is any good solution to the many problems facing bees. Research needs to be done. Natural solutions need to be found before it is too late. We all need to work together to keep the population of bees alive until solutions are found. This is a good book and a good place to start the education needed to keep and protect bees.

This is a very well-written approach to a more organic way to keep bees. It gives some practical and inexpensive ideas on treating various bee pathogens and vectors without resorting to harmful chemicals. Very helpful to those of us who want a more harmonious and natural path.

I bought this book for reference after checking out a whole bunch of bee books at the library. I felt this one had the most useful information for me. I don't want to use a lot of chemicals, so the natural approach to beekeeping was the best for me. It also has an interesting recipe for 'bee tea,' which is a sugar water feed for the bees when they can't get to nectar and pollen. If I could only have one bee book, this would be it. It has methods of pest control, diseases and infestations, what a healthy hive should look like, potential problems, lots of pictures of the bees in the hive, queen ideas, and much much more

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