



## The Bees in Your Backyard: Book Review

The importance of bees can be understood from the fact that if the bees get disappeared from the earth, man would have only four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man. America owes its liberty to honey bee. That was the opinion of none other than George Washington. The book entitled "The Bees in Your Backyard" authored by Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril is an extraordinary encyclopedia of bees. This book will act as a guide for neophyte bee enthusiasts to start and an excellent reference for proficient. It provides an alluring introduction to almost 4000 different bee species in North America. The author has given a detailed account of taxonomy, lifecycle, habitat, sociality and morphology of bees. Studying bees is a rewarding past time, but it means learning to see the world in a way that may be new for you, this book is a perfect guide in this direction. The author has tried to dispel common myths about bees for which stung victims often blame the hapless bees for crimes not committed. There is a brief description of bee enemies which include parasitoids, predators and cleptoparasites. The majority of the book comprises brief accounts of each bee genus found in United States and Canada. There are more than 100 genera of bees in United States and Canada, to identify each genera, species is a daunting task. The book provides valuable hints and tips and a true bee key which can ease the task of identification particularly for novice bee enthusiasts. The author has introduced an exceptionally important and overwhelmed topic for developing a bee garden in the backyard, provided list of flowering plants that can be planted in yards that are known to be attractive to both generalist and specialist bees. The book contains blow-by-blow account of important families of bees along with the identification tips of each family including pollen thieves. The book is a panoramic and accessible guide to all bees in USA and Canada and very helpful to amateur naturalists and experts alike. The colorful photographs are exhilarating. The contents are well organized with fantabulous illustrations. The author has maintained simplicity of writing which has added to the grandeur of this book. To the best of my knowledge there is no other book that describes all the genera to this extent. This book is a ready rechner for students, bee lovers and scholars associated with bee research.

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