

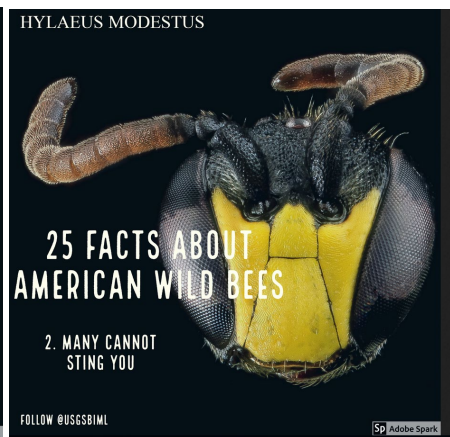
Do One Good Thing for Bees Today: Twenty-five Facts about North American Wild Bees¹

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Wild bees are not honeybees, *Apis mellifera*. Wild bees do not have hives, instead many species nest in the ground, and most of them cannot sting. In fact, there are about 4,000 different species of bees in North America, some of which do not have scientific names. Almost all wild bees are single moms, feeding their young pollen from selected types of plants.

How can we protect wild bees? Protect their plants. Wild bees use pollen and nectar from our native plant communities. The more diversity of plants, the more bees are protected. Shift your lawn area to bee area by planting blooming native plants and shrubs. This is something we all can participate in.

The images reproduced below come from a poster entitled, *25 Facts about Bees*, prepared for the United Nations World Bee Day by Sam Droege. Additional information on World Bee Day can be found here: <https://www.un.org/en/events/beeday/> and <https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/>. The original jpg version of the poster and/or individual images can be freely downloaded from: <ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/md/laurel/Droege/25%20Facts%20Bees/> (login, anonymous; password, guest). Feel free to pass them along to others. Follow our images and blogs @USGSBIML on Instagram and Tumblr.



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XYLOCOPA VIRGINICA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES

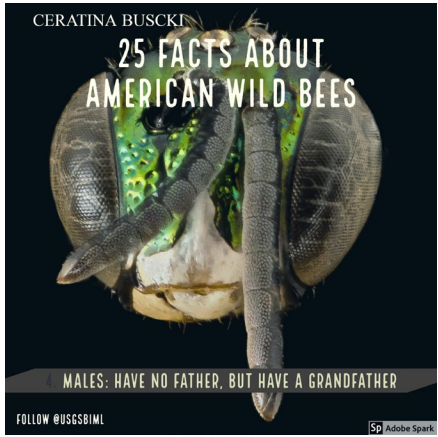


3. CARPENTER BEES: WORLDS LARGEST INSECT EGGS


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CERATINA BUSCKI

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES




MALES: HAVE NO FATHER, BUT HAVE A GRANDFATHER


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COWKILLER (A WASP)

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



5. STING: SMOOTH, NOT BARBED

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TRIPPEOLUS DISTINCTUS

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#6. 10% OF OUR 4000 SPECIES HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN NAMES

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MELISSODES DENTIVENTRIS

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#7. IN THE GROUND: WHERE THE VAST MAJORITY NEST

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EPEOLUS AUSTRALIS ANGEL BEE

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#8. STRICTLY SPEAKING: BEES ARE WASPS... VEGETARIAN WASPS

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NOMADA AUSTRALIS

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#9. 20% GATHER NO POLLEN: THEY SNEAK THEIR EGGS INTO OTHER BEE'S NESTS

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MEGACHILE SCULPTURALIS

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES




#10. ONLY 1% ARE NOT NATIVE - FOR NOW

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ANTHROPHORA VILLOSULA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#11. MALES DO NOT HELP FEMALES...EVER

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#12. WING INTERFERENCE PATTERNS (LOOK IT UP PILGRIM)

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GERANIUM MACULATUM ANDREANA DISTANS

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#13. #POLLEN COLLECTING SPECIES THAT SPECIALIZE ON ONLY 1 FAMILY OF PLANTS = 35-50%

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OSMIA DISTINCTA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#14. BEE CONSERVATION = NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION = SAVING NATURAL AREAS

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APIS MELLIFERA
HONEY BEE

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#15. IF HONEY BEES ARE ALL YOU KNOW, THEN YOU KNOW LITTLE ABOUT OUR WILD BEES

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SWASTRA OBLONGA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#16. MOST FEMALES ARE SINGLE MOMS WHO SEAL THEIR CHILDREN IN CELLS AND NEVER RETURN

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HABROPODA EXCELLENS,
#17. THE FLORAL INDUSTRY MAKES TRILLIONS; BUT HAS NEVER PAID BEES A CENT FOR DESIGNING THEIR ORIGINAL MODELS: SAD

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



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AUGOCHLORA PURA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#18. MOST NEST ONLY A FEW METERS FROM THEIR FLOWERS

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MEGACHILE PUGNATA

25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#19. WEEDS FEED WEEDY BEES. ONLY NATIVE PLANTS SUPPORT ALL BEES

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BOMBUS AFFINIS

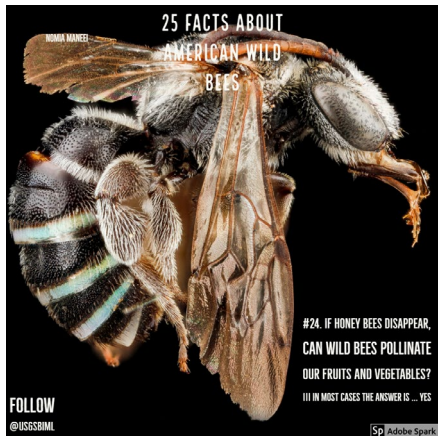
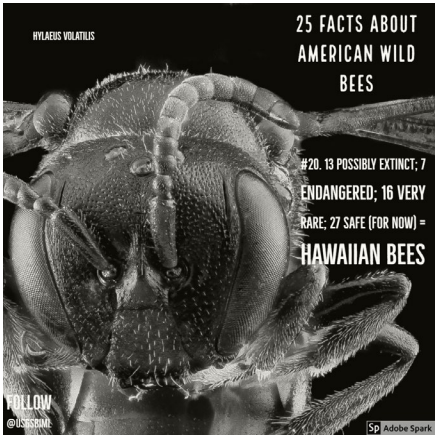
25 FACTS ABOUT AMERICAN WILD BEES



#20. THERE IS ONLY 1 ENDANGERED BEE (IN THE LOWER 48)

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Acknowledgments

Mr. Sam Droege (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, 12100 Beech Forest Drive, Laurel, Maryland 20708 USA. E-mail: sdroege@usgs.gov) provided all the information on which this report is based.