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# Bee Habitat Sculptures

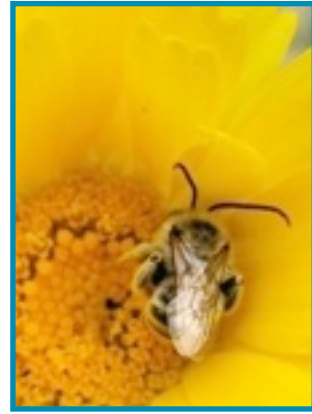
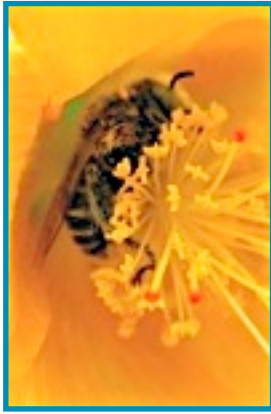
*Art meets Ecology* in support of native pollinators

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Arizona is home to more than 1300 species of bees. These important pollinators do their work with little notice and less credit while the honeybee, an imported species from Europe and Africa, gets all the attention. Honeybees form colonies as large as 50,000 individuals and are the “killer bees” we hear about in gruesome stories of attacks on humans and animals.

In contrast, our native species are mostly solitary docile creatures that nest in holes in the ground or in dead trees and visit cacti, wildflowers and native trees and shrubs for pollen and nectar. In turn, they guarantee the successful fruiting of those plants. They are unruffled by human presence and will sting only if caught -- and even then, the sting is much less potent than that of a honeybee or wasp.



*Female bees nest and overnight in the habitat tunnels. The boys sleep alone in the comfort of flower petals.*

The sculptures illustrated are made from recycled wood and steel and were created to support leafcutter bees. The wood is drilled with small tunnels that the females use for nesting. Normally they would nest in dead tree branches where beetles have drilled holes for them, but in urban areas we tend to remove dead material for aesthetic or safety reasons and the bees go wanting for nest sites.

A female bee will cut small pieces of leaves and shove them into the end of a tunnel and then deposit pollen, nectar and an egg. She will repeat the process until there are several cells containing eggs in each tunnel. The bee then seals the tunnel with chewed leaves, resin, sand or a combination of materials and leaves the eggs to develop and hatch on their own in a matter of weeks or months. She might repeat this process in several tunnels during her life of one or two months.

Bee habitat sculptures are a great way to support pollinators that are essential for the health of our desert ecosystem. They look great simply as sculptures too! We make them to order in the styles shown and we custom design them too. Call or email us for more information on pricing and availability.

