Welcome to BumbleHive, a site about backyard beekeeping, and other things in life that sting. At BumbleHive I write about my travails on my blog, Sticky Notes. I hope to impart plenty of advice, often about what not to do. I also post links I've found helpful about the technical aspects of beekeeping throughout the site.

I'm a hobbyist beekeeper, a mother of two pre-teens, wife of an Irish mathematician, and a lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Before becoming a beekeeper, I was the co-founder and owner of Kaldi's Coffeehouse and Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Company. At various times in my life, I have been a journalist, a Catholic, an office worker inside a cubicle and a holiday gift wrapper. I tried being a housewife and stay at home mom for a week or two, but it didn't work out so well for me or the household rubber glove inventory.

I learn best by doing; maybe it's because I went to Montessori in the 1970s. That was before the era of diagnosing learning styles. Today I'd be called a kinetic learner. Back then, I was just called odd. I didn't grow up with beehives in the backyard, but I did grow up walking barefoot thorough clover in the backyard and getting repeatedly stung by foraging honey bees. I was slow, and odd. I once got stuck hanging on the monkey bars by one arm – too tubby to cross to the ladder on the end– and my classmates said I looked like Winnie-the-Pooh getting stuck in a tree looking for a beehive. Fat, weak, slow and odd.

If you're thinking about beekeeping, already beekeeping, or want reasons to avoid beekeeping, buzz around this site for a glimpse into the life of one beekeeper bumbling her way through learning the ways of the hive.