President's Message 2012
Richard Ellis
Jan. 11, 2012

I would like to thank all of last year’s officers and all of you for making 2011 such a great juncture. You have elected new officers for this year and I think this will be another great year for the Wasatch Beekeepers Association. I am in hopes that by changing the meeting time from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM, we will be able to get more members from Davis and Weber Counties. Up until now we haven’t had to worry about the snow covering the entrance to the hives. I have heard some say they have seen some of their bees taking cleansing flights. We should have been working/repairing our equipment to have it ready for the coming year. I am looking forward to seeing you all again and having another successful year.

Which Hive Is For You?
Ashe McFionn

If you ask 10 different beekeepers, for an opinion you will get 20 different answers or so the old saying goes. For the new beekeeper one of the most confusing aspects is, “Which hive is best for me?” We have so many choices... Langstroth 8 frame, Langstroth 10 frame, Kenyan Top Bar, Tanzanian Top Bar, Ultra Wide Combo Hive, Warre Hive, and many others. Deeps, Mediums, Shallows. Foundation? Foundationless? Beeswax, Wired Beeswax, Pierco All in One Foundation and Frame, Duragilt, Top Bars? Top Bars with Wired Hoops. Screen bottoms, Migratory Covers, Telescoping Covers, Inner Covers, Queen(bee?) Excluders, Internal and External Feeders.

Starting next month we will discuss the different type of hives and the pros and cons of each to help the new beekeepers be able to decide which hive they want. We will also be discussing the necessary hardware to keep bees. borilar_e@yahoo.com

Fun Facts about Honey Bees
1. Bees belong to the third largest insect order which also includes wasps and ants.
2. There are three types of bees in the hive – Queen, Worker and Drone.
3. Workers live about 45 days in the summer; drones are driven out of the hive in the fall. Queens can live for up to 5 years.
4. The queen may lay 1,500 or more eggs each day during her lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
5. Honey bees cruise up to 15 miles per hour.
6. Honey bees’ wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.
7. Honeybees are the only insect that produce food used by humans.
8. Honeybees usually travel approximately 3 miles from their hive. They can travel up to 6 miles searching for food.
9. Honey bees produce beeswax from eight paired glands on the underside of their abdomen.
10. Honey bees must consume about 8 pounds of honey to biochemically produce each pound of beeswax.
11. Honeybees are the only bees that die after they sting.
12. Honeybees are responsible for pollinating approximately 80% of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the U.S.
13. Honeybees have five eyes, three small ones on top of the head and two big ones in front. They also have hair on their eyes.
14. Honeybees can see two things we cannot. One is in the ultraviolet and another is plane polarized light.
15. If a bee entered a movie theater, it would not see a continuous motion movie, but rather each individual frame.
16. Bees communicate with each other by dancing and by using pheromones (scents).
17. Bee’s brains are the size of a sesame seed, about 20,000 times less massive than the human brain.
18. Bees can recognize individual human faces.
19. Bees can count to four.
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Correctly identify this breed of honey bee.

There is an alchemy in sorrow. It can be transmuted into wisdom, which, if it does not bring joy, can yet bring happiness. ~Pearl S. Buck
Wasatch Beekeepers Association Presidency Introduction
Name: Jerry Lynn
Position: Vice-President

When I was 14 years old, my brother-in-law purchased two hives from Montgomery Ward. Sunday afternoon’s we would check the hives and work with the bees. I decided then that I wanted to someday have bees. In the early 1970s a friend at work told me of some abandoned bee equipment. There were about 20 supers and empty frames. They had been boiled in lye water to kill foul brood spores and were well weathered. We brought them home and worked to get them in working condition. We each got two packages and started our bee adventure. By the next year we decided the old equipment wasn’t sturdy enough and replaced it with purchased frames and boxes we built. I eventually increased my hives to 30 colonies and had them located in Sandy and Draper. After a couple of years I started a family business and there was no time for the bees. Some of the equipment was put in storage and I put beekeeping on the back burner.

After retiring, I decided that my life was not complete without some bees to care for. It was a different ball game, there were mites to deal with. This has been a learning experience. I enjoy working with bees and helping others. Each summer we market our honey at a farmer’s market and look forward to meeting and talking to people while we are there. jlynn2@gmail.com

Richard Ellis-President of Wasatch Beekeepers Association
Photograph by Denise B. Hunsaker

Wasatch Beekeepers Association Presidency Introduction
Name: Richard Ellis
Position: President

I have been a member of the Wasatch Beekeepers Association for three years. I served one year as Vice President and one year a President and I am starting my second year as President.

I have two hives for honey and an observation hive that I keep in my garage in the summer months.

I got involved with bees when my brother living in Centerville borrowed a hive of bees from our brother living in Logan. The first year we did not know how to take care of bees and we were not told how to take care of them. The next spring when we looked into the hive, the bees were all gone. We took a frame down to Jones’ Bee Company and Skip told us the hive had American Foul Brood in it and told my brother to burn everything. When my brother ordered a super of bees from Skip Jones, he was given two supers with bees in them. It was at this time I wound up with the starting of a hive of bees. We decided we needed to learn how to take care of the bees so we joined the Wasatch Beekeepers Association to learn what we needed to do to care of the bees.

I have planted some flowering plants that the bees like and I have a variety of fruit trees for the bees to pollinate as well as a garden. I like to watch the bees at work on the flowers and the corn. I have made a hive lifter, solar wax melter and a swarm trap that I am going to use to try and trap some swarms this summer. rbellis88@yahoo.com

Richard Ellis-President of Wasatch Beekeepers Association
Photograph by Denise B. Hunsaker
I’ve been keeping bees for 4-5 years depending on when you start your beekeeping calendar. Growing up with stories of my great great beekeeping grandmother and always enjoying honey, I’ve always been interested in beekeeping.

My interest grew when a beekeeper came to my fifth grade class. A deeply embossed memory was created watching his observation hive. Bees going every which way and the huge marked queen. I was very interested when the beekeeper offered to let us observe a bee sting him. I got to watch as the bee pulled away and the stinger was left behind with the pulsating venom sack. We observed the stinger working its way into his flesh. I was very intrigued that this man would subject himself to pain so I could learn. I figured beekeepers must be pretty good people and set in my mind I wanted to be beekeeper someday.

I’ve got ten hives in two bee yards. I am friends with a farmer in Draper. He sells my honey at his vegetable stand and lets me keep some hives on his property. I also forced my kids to go door to door with me to sell some honey to my neighbors and I sell some at work to coworkers. I’ve only got two hives in Draper and the others are at my house in Sandy. I’ve got them split about even between queen production and honey production. I’ve done Ross Rounds and liquid honey. Over the years I’ve had Carniolan, Italian, Minnesota Hygenic and a Midnight/Carnolian cross.

I’ve been raising queen bees for myself for a couple of years. This last year, I was able to sell a few late season queens. I learned a lot and failed more then I’d like to admit but was successful in the end. I am already trying to figure out how to raise my own queens earlier in the year. In my queen breeding I’ve been selecting for cold day working, brood production and gentleness. Hopefully a by product will be more honey and hives that winter well. I am considering buying a artificially inseminated queen ($175 seems crazy to pay for a queen). Last years wet spring was difficult for raising queens.

I’ve got four children and am a native of Utah though I spent some time in California, Wyoming and a brief stay in Minnesota. Some of my bee mentors are Dr. Thomas Seely, Dr. Marla Spivak, Dr. Larry Summers and Dr. David Tarpy, my choices would indicate a kind of a science theme. I enjoy science and am a few semesters short of a Chemistry degree. I finished with accounting, not as interesting as hard science but very useful in the business world. I work in investments and enjoy the outdoors when I get time. I plan on keeping bees as a way to teach my children to work and appreciate this beautiful world we live in. It would be nice to make some money but I am starting to believe it is not possible; every year I almost break even. bryweber@gmail.com
learn, but I look at where I was one year ago, knowing basically nothing about them, to this year having harvested honey and given it out as Christmas gifts and am astounded at how far I’ve come. Thank you to everyone who has been so helpful!

Interesting experiences: I’ve learned that I’m not allergic to bees; I’ve been stung 12 times this year. The most memorable experience this year also comes with some great advice: don’t start a hive inspection only to look down and realize your jeans have big holes in the knees. I’ll spare everyone the details about my screaming like a girl and running for my life.

Like most: I’m still not 100% comfortable around the bees, and I’ve already lost one hive this winter. I’m hoping as I gain more experience I’ll be able to better care for them tend them and keep them alive. It might take a few years, but in the meantime it’s been fascinating to watch them, learn about them, and experience the products they give. I’ve now harvested and eaten raw honey, and I’ve successfully rendered my first block of beeswax. Its been an amazing ride so far and I look forward to continuing the journey.

Jared Erickson-Treasurer of Wasatch Beekeepers Association
Photograph by Denise B. Hunsaker

Fun Facts about Honey Bee Hives

- A populous colony may contain 40,000 to 60,000 bees during the late spring or early summer.

- Bees maintain a space, known as bee space, within the hive which they use as walkways. This space is 3/8” wide.

- Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their central brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.

- The modern beehive used today was patented in 1851 by Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth of Pennsylvania. Until then, some styles of hives along with their colonies had to be destroyed to gather the honey.

http://westmtnapiary.com/fun_facts.html
the most time consuming for us but it is so worth it.

What do you like most about being a beekeeper? When both our hives survive the winter!

What is something interesting that you can tell us about your experiences? It seems like everyone is so interested in (and a little afraid of) beekeeping. We moved our hives to our yard about a year and a half ago. One of our next door neighbors is like a proud papa, talking to everyone about our bees all the time. He’ll stand across the fence and watch us when we’re doing stuff with the bees. Friends in our neighborhood make sure to tell us that they saw some of our bees in their garden and how cute they are. It is pretty funny.

What do you find yourself doing with most of your time when it comes to beekeeping? Bees don’t really take much time. They have been living just fine for thousands of years without human help. My husband and I try to interfere with their lives as little as possible but still take good care of them. Harvesting the honey probably is...
understand just how much of their honey we could take. What takes up most of my time is that I am investing in my garden area to provide 'the girls' with the pollen that they most prefer. I love doing this. We are close enough to the Jordan River so I am not concerned with them having a fresh water source. My husband will be spending some of his time with building our new hives. Which means that I have to spend my time clearing the area for him to be able to work in.

What do you like most about being a beekeeper? I really love watching them. I will spend hours in the backyard visiting with them. Yes, I do talk to them and sing to them.

What is something interesting that you can tell us about your experiences? When I originally decided where I was going to set up my first hive, I understood that it needed to be in a clear area in the yard. I cleared out the weeds and put down a piece of vinyl flooring, to keep the vegetation from growing up through the hive. After we set up our second hive, we decided to move them to a cement platform that was pre-existing in our yard. The move was going to be very tricky. We didn't want to upset the bees and it needed to be very easy on Dana, my husband. I had to clear the cement area of the fallen fifty foot box elder tree and clear a path from where the hives were originally to where they were going to be placed. On the day of the move, we took the hives apart and moved the mediums first. We placed them on a garden wagon and moved the boxes one at a time. Then reassembled them in the same order that they had been in the first place. The bees didn't have any trouble adapting to their new area. We prefer them being on the cement, it is easier on us to work the hives.

denise.smith4@gmail.com

Wasatch Beekeepers Association Presidency
Introduction cont.
Name: Denise B. Hunsaker
Position: Public Relations

How long have you been a member of the Wasatch Beekeepers Association? This is my second year. I join the WBA in 2011 before I got my first hive.

How many hives do you have? Just one for now. We plan on building five double hives by spring. Which will give us ten hives that will include five colonies.

Why did you become interested in beekeeping? A friend had asked if he could place one of his hives in our backyard. We have about 1/3 acre of uncultivated land. He invited me to the WBA meetings. That was when I decided I wanted to have my own hives. So in April of 2011 I placed an order with Jones Bee for my first package of Carniolan honey bees. After Keith (my friend who got me started in beekeeping) and I started working the beehive, my husband Dana decided it was okay to become involved. He has since become very interested in being a beekeeper. He started attending the meetings and started building more boxes and frames for the hive. He is a really excellent beekeeper. We then had a very early swarm. We captured our swarm and decided to start a second hive. Then bought a queen and put her in the first hive with the old queen in the second hive. We started with the Langstroth bee hive. We are going to be going to a double top bar hive.

What do you find yourself doing with most of your time when it comes to beekeeping? I have found that the bees really don't take up much of my time. We spent very little time harvesting the honey, since we were doing all of it by hand and didn't understand just how much of their honey we could take. What takes up most of my time is that I am investing in my garden area to provide 'the girls' with the pollen that they most prefer. I love doing this. We are close enough to the Jordan River so I am not concerned with them having a fresh water source. My husband will be spending some of his time with building our new hives. Which means that I have to spend my time clearing the area for him to be able to work in.

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Denise B. Hunsaker - Public Relations Officer of Wasatch Beekeepers Association - Photograph by Dana P. Hunsaker

Harvest Lane Honey

Each package includes Cage, Feeder can, Queen, and 2 pounds of bees. All three type of bees do really well in Utah and produce a good amount of honey each year. We start taking orders in Oct. 1st 2011 to March 15th 2012. Pick up will be in Tooele Utah in April.

Price: $69.00 • Retail: $71.00

Harvest Lane Honey has the largest sections of honey bee packages in Utah. We will carry Carniolans, Italians, Minnesota Hyg. and Russians.

*Shipping prices vary, please contact us by e-mail or phone. We make no profit off shipping, we have to use UPS NEXT DAY AIR due to their policies. *Please see our Terms of Bee Sales under the Policies page, by purchasing these bees you agree to our Terms and Conditions. www.harvestlanehoney.com
January 19th, 2011 - 7:00pm
Our first meeting of the
Wasatch Beekeepers Association
at the Day-Riverside Library
Where Experience Matters!

Utah’s #1 choice for beekeepers 9 years running.

Knight Family Honey’s 3 lb. & 4 lb. packages of bees set to arrive April 28th 2012.

We transport your honey bees to Utah in a climate controlled, air ride, stress free environment, (stress free bees are happy bees) insuring your bees arrive in the best condition possible. Which gives you the best package of honeybees to begin your beekeeping experience. This said we are the only established supplier of package honeybees that transports package bees in this way to Utah. This is why we are the #1 choice for beekeepers.

High quality beekeeping equipment for a good price.
All glued stapled and assembles.
Check out the truck load sale. Order equipment on line for pick up March 31st

We are experienced Beekeepers with colonies along the Wasatch Front and its mountain valleys. We welcome any questions that you may have. We are neither the cheapest nor the most expensive.

Please visit www.KnightFamilyHoney.com to learn more.