Beginning with Honey Bees
What can be expected of the bees? Of beekeeping?
The Honey Bee Colony

Sexes & Castes:

- Worker
- Queen
- Drone
What is a Honey Bee?

Complete Metamorphosis – egg
What is a Honey Bee?

Complete Metamorphosis – larvae
What is a Honey Bee?

Complete Metamorphosis – pupae
What is a Honey Bee?

Complete Metamorphosis – adult
Highly Specialized Body Structure
Worker
Queen
Sidenote:
Another Organism in Your Hive

Varroa
What are they up to right now?
Urban Beekeeping
Where to Locate your Bees

Sunny
Water Source
Windbreak
Flat & Accessible
Avoid Damp, Humid environments
Hives facing South-ish

Neighbor Concerns
Pesticide Concerns
Livestock Concerns
Diversity is pretty important

- understatement
Stings

Reactions to bee venom
Hive Components

- Outer cover
- Inner cover
- Supers with frames
- Queen Excluder
- Hive bodies with frames
- Entrance reducer
- Bottom board
- Hive stand
Smoker
Hive Tool
Veil
Bee Gloves
Bee Suit
Springtime in the Beekeepers’ Year:

Starting a new colony
Receiving your Bees

• A Hive can be started from a:
  – Package
  – Nuc
  – Established Colony
  – Swarm

• **Packages** are often the ideal (and recommended) method for beginning beekeepers.

• Used equipment commonly carries pests, parasites, diseases, & contaminants into your brand new apiary! **Be Aware! Require inspection of used equipment prior to sale / introduction!**
Package Bee Installation

• Remove a few frames from center of hive.
• Shake & Rap the bees out of the package into their new home.
Package Bee Installation

• Replace frames into hive.
Package Bee Installation

• Suspend the queen cage between two central frames.
Package Bee Installation

• You’re not finished until you feed the bees.
• We recommend using a hive-top feeder.
Foundation Becomes Comb
Workers Carrying Dandelion Pollen
Worker Foraging for Nectar
Worker Collecting Water
Using your Smoker

• Why?
• How?
• What to burn?
• Keeping it lit...

Good Fuel, Tightly Packed = Cool, White Dependable Smoke
Good Pattern Reflects a Good Queen & a Healthy Hive
Calendar for 1st Year with Bees

- **April & May** - Spring Maintenance, Build-Up, Swarm “Control”, IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
- **June thru August** - Honey Flow & Supering, Doing your part for the IHPA at the State Fair
- **September** – Honey Removal & IPM, Processing of honey and hive products
- **October** – Feeding if Necessary, IPM, Winter Preparations
- **November thru March** – Education, Equipment Maintenance, Preparations for spring, Occasional quick checks when weather permits
Summer / Honey Flow
Adding Honey Supers

Stay a step ahead of the bees’ need for space

Avoid overcrowding

Make sure the bees always have room to store more surplus honey
Removing Honey from Colonies
Uncapping Honey Frames
Extracting Honey from Uncapped Frames
Spinning Honey from the Frames
Straining from the Extractor
Bottling
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Thank you.