

*** release ***

The human mind appreciates *order* and *structure*. There is calm when randomness and chaos is removed and, in its place, a routine is established. This is true in many activities, including *human management of a honeybee colony*. Once a protocol for a complex process is set in place and once the rules are written, it becomes much easier to communicate detailed instructions and to provide a "cookbook" so that others may follow and obtain similar end-results. When variation in process is minimized, standardization of outcome may improve.



In 1852 a Philadelphia native, Lorenzo Langstroth, introduced the moveable-frame hive that would come to bear his name. *Order* and *structure* replaced what had previously been chaos in the world of beekeeping. With minimization of variation in the hive, standardization of outcome could improve. Volume of honey per hive unit could be managed and maximized. So it has gone for over 160 years. Commercial beekeepers have used this standard format to increase yields in honey production and to provide efficiency in transporting hives of pollinators for the industrialized agricultural business, which supplies food for an ever-expanding human population. All the while, many non-professionals have become interested in beekeeping and have begun small apiaries. The well-worn path followed by most amateurs has been to adopt the practices set in place for large-scale beekeepers.



Various motivations inspire amateur beekeepers to start and to continue in beekeeping. Of course, the *sweet taste of honey* is the primal drive that first inspired humans to interact with these small, stinging insects. As committed amateurs soon learn, it is not too difficult to maintain hives which produce honey by the gallon each year. Learning any new skill is often a bit of a challenge, and it's rewarding to improve over time, managing the difficulties which emerge, and to compare notes with other beekeepers.



There are other sources of enjoyment to be found in beekeeping, however, which the constraints of the standard fixed-frame beekeeping approach cannot offer. As suggested elsewhere (see: [windows](#) and [conversion](#)), making modifications to existing Langstroth hive equipment can provide *ability to view directly honeybee activity within the hive*, while *minimizing labor, purchase and maintenance costs of equipment, and the chore and expense of harvesting honey* (see: [harvest](#)).



Stepping out of the mainstream is always a bit difficult. There seems to be enough uncertainty in just trying to follow the beaten path. However, there is quite a bit of beautiful activity going on inside a beehive, if one could just see it from time to time without disturbing the entire system. The elegance of this approach is that one can simply **release** a colony of honeybees into an empty box and let them do what honeybees do.



See: [*release*](#) webpage on [imagessays.com](#)