

# log

*Apis mellifera* got its start long ago in Africa and then migrated through the Middle East to Europe. Once humans appeared on the scene, the taste of honey attracted their attention. Honey gathering from natural hives is an activity documented by cave drawings of early man. As civilizations developed, purposeful beekeeping was established in Egypt and elsewhere.

Many centuries later, Europeans ventured west across the Atlantic in wooden ships and found a world that was new (to them). Not until 1622 were the first colonies of European honeybees - *Apis mellifera* - packed up and carried to North America. They were put to work in the forests and the fields to produce honey for the men who owned them.

In 1851, Lorenzo Langstroth of Philadelphia introduced the *moveable frame hive*, which simplified inspection and greatly improved the efficiency of sustainable honey harvesting. This hive design has become the standard for beekeepers, even for those who haul colonies of bees around the country to serve as migrant workers for crop pollination.

In the late 1980s, *Varroa destructor* arrived in North America, spreading rapidly (see [\\*varroa\\*](#)). These parasites transmit viruses from hive-to-hive and the practice of crowding hives close together with large openings facilitates their invasions.

Observations of how honeybees house themselves and thus manage to avoid devastating losses to *Varroa destructor* has led to a re-examination of the way *Apis mellifera* colonies have lived when free to choose their own way in the wild. Thus emerged the concept of log hives.

