



OCTOBER 2012

# HELLO WORLD

In HELLO WORLD #5 back in May 2012, I wondered what bees are telling us about how to survive and prosper. Just like SRI International creating spin-off ventures, a swarm of bees on the Menlo Park SRI International campus had spun off from their hive. I was able to catch the swarm and take these spin-off bees home. I was curious about how indigenous bees handle living in a hive instead of a tree.

Losses in bee colonies are so common these days. During a recent discussion with Karen Steinmetz, SRI Director of Mammalian Toxicology and member of the credit union Supervisory Committee, I discovered that she had recently co-hosted a symposium on bees that focused on the current status of bee and colony health. The symposium took a look into the multi-factorial causes for bee population decline.

The SRI bees were slow to get started but are thriving now. Plus, I added more beehives and ended up with four in total — two at home and two at the local community garden. All four hives are still humming along, and our first honey harvest resulted in 55 pounds of honey! Bees work hard for their honey and have many different specialties: worker bees, field bees, nurse bees, guard bees and one queen bee. Working as one entity, they are able to do so much more. I followed their lead and partnered with a local community garden — expanding my horizons and meeting some new friends. A portion of this garden bounty goes to a local charity, so the harvest expands even further.



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Steve Bowles  
CEO/CFO



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