

Purdue University
Department of Entomology
Undergraduate Capstone
Project Summary

Name of Student:

Chelsea Rider-Hill

Name of Mentor:

Dr. Greg Hunt

Project Title:

Honey Bee Educational Website

Project Summary:

The capstone project is designed to give students hands on experience and the freedom to dive deeper into a subject of their interest. For my capstone, I decided to make a website informing the public on honey bees. My interest in honey bees was sparked when I took Dr. Hunt's beekeeping course at Purdue. I thought making a website would be a fun and interesting opportunity for me to share the knowledge I gained on honey bees. I had no previous experience making a website, so the details of this project were very new to me, but with the help of some technology oriented friends and Dr. Hunt, I was able to complete a functional website. My website's target audience is kids and adults who do not know very much about honey bees, but do not want too in-depth of information. I wanted the text to be easy to read and not overwhelming to the readers. My goal is for the reader to learn about the internal organization of a honey bee hive and how complex it is.

I worked on this project over the summer of 2013 and corresponded with my mentor, Dr. Hunt, through email, since we were in different states. The first step was to draw a sketch of what I wanted the website to look like and the functions I wanted it to have. I then asked my friend Mark what program I should use to design this page. Because

I do not know how to code or anything too technical, he suggested I use a program called “Quick ‘n Easy Web Builder”. This was a very useful program because I could accomplish everything I wanted to without having to learn a coding language. Although the program I used was extremely helpful, it still took me a while to get the hang of it and learn how to do everything I wanted.

I wanted this website to be a tour of a honey bee hive, and I was able to accomplish this goal. The first page of the site is the outside of a man made hive with a brief description. You then have the option of entering the hive to learn more or clicking on the bottom of the hive to learn about guard bees. When you enter the hive, you can choose to click on “queen bee”, “drone”, “worker bee”, “brood”, “honey”, “pollen”, or “queen cell” to learn more about each topic. Once you click on one of the subjects, there is a brief description with interesting information and pictures. On the left side of the webpage are two links, one takes you back to the outside of the hive and the other takes you to Purdue’s entomology home page.

I learned a lot from this project. When I initially came up with the idea for this website I had a great amount of doubt whether I could complete it or not. With no previous experience, I was afraid it would be too big of a project for me to handle. Fortunately, with the help of “Quick ‘n Easy Web Builder, and advice from a friend and Dr. Hunt, I was able to complete my project. I will be able to carry the knowledge I have gained from this project with me to future employment and other opportunities.