Dates to BEE Remembered:

June 9, 2007
Midwest Beekeeping Symposium

June 24th-28th, 2007 International Pollination Symposium, ISU/Ames

July 14th, 2007
Field Day

August 9-19th, 2007 Iowa State Fair, Des Moines

November 16th & 17th, 2007 IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

Or by mail at the address listed on the front cover.

Changes of Address
Get all your issues of The Buzz Newsletter. If you move make sure your Buzz can find you! Send changes of address to the Buzz address listed at the bottom of the page, or email changes to: thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

FOR SALE: Single story colonies with four frames of bees and a 2007 queen—bottom bd and lid included. Each box will have 4 or 5 frames with foundation. Available in early May. Contact Curtis Barnhardt at 319-480-4209 or 800-728-9979

For Sale: S.E. Iowa raised Queens. Ready in June.

Contact Ron Wehr
(319) 698-7542

FOR SALE: Queens from high producing Carniolan stock that has survived an Iowa winter. Available from late June to early Sept. Marked queens are $12.50 each. Shipping and insurance on small lots runs $7. Shipping to most points in Iowa is overnight.

Contact Adam or Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

For Sale: 12 frame radial extractor and good wood built stand, like new.

Electric heated knife. $30.00

1 Hive set up. $50.00

Contact:
Ernest Hinkle
531 W. Cedar St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4479

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only $10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone: (515) 278-1762
Dear Honey Producers,

I also attended an Agricultural hearing held in Council Bluffs at Iowa Western Community College sponsored by Senator Harkin and also attended by Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska. I testified on behalf of the beekeeping industry asking for support for the beekeeping industry through legislation as presented in the letter from Senator Baucus.

I traveled to Des Moines to meet with Maury Wills and the state bee inspectors since our last letter. We are asking all members to contact the inspectors to verify that you are suspecting CCD so that we have the documentation and information when we do get a state apiarist to work with the information. Someone asked me why we want one back since most states are also eliminating the Apiarist position. My response would be, just because the other states are doing it, is it the right thing to do? Look at the situation we are facing now, how do we get all the necessary information and who can take all the calls concerning questions that are arising from CCD. I enjoy the contacts, but I can’t always just drop what I am doing to help everyone. I am trying to pass the requests to other board members, but sometimes we just don’t know what to do to help. Not all of the requests are from IHPA members. Remember the website can be accessed by anyone. We are getting quite a few requests from non-members. I do ask them to join, but they are not always interested. I don’t think that I should ask them if they are members first before I answer them. I am just saying that a state apiarist would help the information process and would free up the IHPA board to work on IHPA business.

I am still getting lots of calls concerning the CCD problem. I just wish that the newspapers and radio stations would quote the important things that we say instead of what they think the important comment is. At least the beekeeping industry is getting some television, newspaper and radio time. People I don’t even know are stopping me to ask about the situation. At least people are thinking of honey bees right now. A gentleman at the senior center where I work asked me if I had heard the radio story that claimed that the problem with the honey bees is that a German research project is suggesting the problem is cell phone transmissions. The transmissions are preventing the honey bees from returning to the hive. I just don’t know what the problem is, I just hope we get it solved even if it is beekeeper management.

Let’s hope the weather is going to straighten up and we can get all the outdoor things done that we need to. I hope the flowering trees and bushes will survive and we will have a fruit crop and that there are enough honey bees in the state to do the pollination work. Remember American Agriculture Depends on the Beekeeping Industry.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

The South West Iowa Honey Producers Meet

The South West Iowa Honey Producers met in Atlantic at the Feedlot Steakhouse and Lounge on Saturday evening, April 14th. The members had a great meal and spent time discussing issues facing beekeepers. SW Iowa Honey Queen, Diane Jurchen joined us and told of her activities. Donna reported that Hy-Vee in Atlantic is doing an Agricultural promotion the end of April and wants honey and beekeeping facts to present to the public. Diane will hand out samples of honey and answer questions.
A Word From the Iowa Honey Queen

As I am writing this letter it is very cold, and somehow snow made it in the forecast! I thought we were all done with snow and we were moving on into spring. The warm weather was nice while it lasted!

I have been getting a lot of questions about the colony collapse disorder. I wasn't really sure how to go about answering the questions. I finally received my April issue of Bee Culture and there was a really great article in there about CCD! It answered a lot of my questions, and now I will be able to lead people in the right direction.

I am really looking forward to the end of the school year. I will be moving back to Perry, and continuing my RN nursing classes at DMACC in Ankeny. It will be nice to be close to my family once again, and get more involved with the Bees.

My dad has been scraping propolis and getting ready to sell it, and on the warmer days he has been trying to get out with the bees and splitting up brood to build up his hives. We can't really do much with the bees until we get rid of the nasty weather.

Until next time, have a great month. Remember I am here to service you, so if you need help with anything please contact me. My phone number is (515) 210-1027, and e mail Chizel2004@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Chelsa Bronnenberg
2007 Iowa Honey Queen

Spencer Beekeeping Class

March 23rd & 24 were the dates for the fourth beginning beekeeping class in seven years at Spencer, IA. During the Clay County Fair as we talked to people we took names of those interested in becoming a beekeeper. As in the past it was put on in conjunction with the Clay County extension office. They did the advertising and sent out postcards to people who had signed up as interested. Larry Boernsen helped also with some phone calls to people who had shown interest at fair time, but hadn’t signed up as the deadline drew near.

Pat Ennis made the class interesting for the eighteen people in attendance. THANKS PAT FOR ALL YOUR WORK! Tova Jessen (one of the youth recipients of bees from the IHPA) and her mother (Karen Jessen) were part of the class. Everyone of the class who wants to get bees are going to be able to get started this year thanks to Larry and Marlene Boernsen who had ordered more packages than they are needing for themselves. Marlene made sure we had plenty of goodies and drink for break time both sessions. The class was a success.

We are close to forty who have started keeping bees in Northwest Iowa because of these classes. Most of them are still beekeepers.

Submitted by Jim Strachan

Spring Preparations

It is April 6 and my bee packages are here and some how I got everything ready for them. All of the used brood boxes got painted, new foundation, screen bottom boards and tops. With the record lows I will hold the packages in my shop until Monday April 9. These packages will be put on small cell foundation with the hope of regressing the bees to a smaller size after a few brood cycles. All bees used to be smaller until someone decided that larger bees would make more honey and made the foundation cell size larger (5.4 cell width). Many beekeepers believe that the smaller bees have less disease and deal with the mites better without any treatments. I am trying both Italian and Carniolan queens on the small cell foundation. I know that it will not be easy and it may take 2 years to regress the bees. I hope this is worth it.

Submitted by Delmar Nelson
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium
Saturday June 9, 2007 ~ 8am– 4pm

McHenry County College Conference Center
Crystal Lake, Illinois

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association and McHenry County College proudly present the 2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium. The Symposium is designed to provide the latest, relevant information to all new and veteran Beekeepers as well as those simply interested in Honey Bees and Beekeeping.

The full-day agenda will contain a Keynote Presentation, General Sessions, a Panel Discussion, multiple Breakout Sessions, a featured “Beginner’s Track” of sessions, Lunch, Raffle, Beekeeping Magazines, Catalogs and a Beekeeping Supply Marketplace.

The Symposium will feature a keynote presentation by University of Montana, Research Professor Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk, who will be presenting the latest research findings surrounding the epidemic Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). His recent research is focused on the causes and potential solutions to this devastating condition facing Honey Bee colonies nation wide.

Content leaders from Illinois and across the United States will be presenting a variety of topics. The varied and diverse Breakout sessions will include:

- Status of and Living with Small Hive Beetle in Illinois
- The State of Pollination in The USA
- Introduction to Mead ~ The Nectar of the Gods
- The Nutriceutical Properties of Honey
- Planning, Planting and Maintaining a Bee and Butterfly Garden
- The Secrets to Winning Honey Competitions
- A Day in the Life of an Apiary Inspector
- Introduction to Graft-Free Queen Rearing
- Long Distance Colony Management – Emerging Beekeeping Technology
- Bees in the War on Terror – Smelling Out Danger
- The Sideliner and Hobbyist’s Guide to Marketing Honey
- “The Honey Bee Whisperer” Reading Your Bees (Beginner Track)
- Introduction to Beekeeping (Beginner Track)

For more information, including a complete Symposium agenda, maps to McHenry County College and much more, visit the Illinois State Beekeepers Association website at www.isba.us or contact ISBA President, Ken Haller at vikinghoneyfarm

Pre-Registration by May 31:  
Individual: $40  
Course Code: NCCS04001  
Additional Family Members: $20  
Course Code: NCCS04002

On-Site Registration:  
Individual: $45  
Additional Family Members: $25

To Pre-Register by May 31:  
Credit Card Payment: 815.455.8588  
Monday – Thursday 8am-7:30pm  
Friday 8am-4pm  
Saturday 8am-1pm

Payment by Check:  
(Payable to McHenry County College)  
Send Name(s), Address, Phone and Check to:  
McHenry County College ~ Attn. Molly Walsh  
8900 Us Hwy 14 ~ Crystal Lake, IL 60012
Gordon Powell received some good feedback regarding the IHPA’s sponsorship involvement in the Food Department. He received this letter shortly after the Iowa State Fair last year in September. The Iowa Honey Producers Association board have already agreed to sponsor the entry in both the Iowa State Fair and the Clay County Fair "Foods made with Honey" again in 2007.

Iowa Honey Producers Association.

Thank you for your support of the 2006 Iowa State Fair Food Department. It was a good fair and we had a lot of compliments. We had over 12,800 food entries and 841 entrants. Over $58,000 in total prize money and products were awarded. You helped to make this possible because of your interest and support.

We had a display with each of your sponsored divisions listing the monetary and product prizes offered. People were very interested in your support.

I will be sending you a letter in November asking you to return as a sponsor for the 2007 Iowa State Fair.

Again, thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Arlette Hollister
Iowa State Fair
Food Superintendent

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To: The Iowa Honey Producers Association,

I want to thank you for being sponsors at our Great Iowa State Fair. You people are what makes our Food Department Great. I received Reserve Sweepstakes. So I had a lot of honey to carry back in which I'll use it all getting ready for next year. I am wondering how else you could handle the honey prizes. I am nearing 80 and that is a long old haul up to the agriculture building.

Thanks,
Majorie Rodgers

One of our yards is next to a cell phone tower. I haven't seen any ill effects. There are always some colonies that die, for what appears to be, no good reason but most of the problems we see in our operation are attributable to Varroa mites. The mite population has the capability to increase exponentially at the end of the season. The bees can disappear within two or three weeks if this happens.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

The Cell Phone Story

I have had people, who don't even know me, calling to ask if cell phones are really the cause of bee losses. This is a real stretch to my mind. I read a couple of articles from the European papers but they seem pretty vague. They talk about cell phones killing brain cells and causing tumors. The connection to bees is pretty vague. One article was only concerned with the radiation emitted by cell phones. Using this logic, one would have to put a cell phone on every pallet to cause a problem. This could actually happen. Jerry Bromenshank is working on a system to monitor weather and weight gains in the beeyards using cell phone technology.

IHPA Video

The video funded by the IHPA on identifying foulbrood and monitoring Varroa mites is nearly completed. The finished product is going to be much better than the preliminary edition that I showed at the annual meeting. There is follow-up footage of what happens to the foul colonies after they are shaken onto foundation. We are also going to add a section on how to do an alcohol wash. Running time will be 35 to 40 minutes.

9th International Pollination Symposium on Plant-Pollinator Relationships - Diversity in Action
June 24 - 28, 2007
Ames, Iowa, USA

A section on Colony Collapse Disorder is being added to the International Pollinator Symposium being held in Ames in June.

Colony Collapse Disorder Symposium
Date: Wednesday (June 27)
Time: 8:00 to 11:00
Place: ISU; Scheman building

Special section on CCD
Speakers – Robert Danka, Jeff Pettis, Diana Cox-Foster and Marla Spivak.
There is a one day cost of $175.00 which includes daily meals, daily refreshments and conference materials.

Additional details are available on the web at:
http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/plantbee/home.html
## 2007 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS
### TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you will supply and bid price)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Bid Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 lb. Jars—light honey</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 lb. Jars—light honey</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 lb. Jugs—light honey</td>
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<td>Gallons—light honey</td>
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<td>4 oz. Antique Jars</td>
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<td>8 oz. Antique Jars</td>
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<td>Hard Honey Candy (assorted)</td>
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<td>Creamed Honey—flavors</td>
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<td>Other Beeswax Products</td>
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<td>12 oz. Bears—light honey</td>
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<td>1 lb. Skep—light honey</td>
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<td>50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade)</td>
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<td>Comb Honey</td>
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<td>Creamed Honey—regular</td>
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<td>Beeswax Candles</td>
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<td>Beeswax Bars (1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.)</td>
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**NOTE:** We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn’t make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooded and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay **$4.00** per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay **$3.25** for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be **2007** crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% or less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair. **Bids must be received by June 30, 2007.**

Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplied for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted working, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet.

**NOTE:** Arrangements need to be made to pick up any used product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 19 or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 20, 2007.

Your Signature_____________________________Name (printed)________________________

Address, City, Zip__________________________Phone &/or Cell________________________

Return to: W. John Johnson   2426 Hamilton Dr.  Ames, IA  50012-8202

**Remember:** This is the major money making event for the Iowa Honey Producers!!
Youth Program Update

The IHPA sent information to the State FFA Convention to be included in the packets for all the advisors in the state of Iowa. The information is for the new scholars for 2007. We are updating the application for our website and will send the updated application to the State FFA office to be e-mailed to all the FFA advisors in the state.

I know that the present youth scholars are patiently waiting for the arrival of their honey bees. As of this writing, I am waiting to hear from Lee Heine, when the bees will arrive in Iowa. Lee told me that the bees will be on any one of six shipments and that he will let me know as soon as he knows. We are so thankful to Lee for donating these packages. Next year we will have all of the information and know what to do to let the scholars get a great start to beekeeping. All new programs have “bugs” to work out. We are learning with the scholars.

We are excited to have new young members of the IHPA. The board is ready and willing to help these participants have a successful beekeeping season. The mentors are an important part of this program and we thank you for your commitment to the future of the IHPA also.

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The package bee truck backed up the driveway. It was 20 degrees out. I had some anxiety about the low temperatures. It proved to be unwarranted. Bees are heat machines if they have proper resources to work with. I thought the packages were easier to work with when it was cold. They stayed clustered and there weren't any hobos in the air.

Shortly after we got the packages stacked up in my unheated garage. The temp rose to 65 degrees. It decreased slowly throughout the day as we took packages out. There were about 150 packages left for the overnight. I put a little milkhouse heater in the garage and let it run. The morning temperature was 35 degrees. The bees were great. The syrup cans were empty on arrival as usual. I used a garden hand sprayer to feed the bees this year. It had enough pressure to force syrup through the screen wire onto the cluster. Then I sprayed some on the floor of the cage so there would be food on the bottom in case bees fell off the cluster. The wand of the sprayer went between the cages nicely so it was easy to feed. It takes about 1 ½ gallons of diluted syrup to feed 400 packages.

There was an article in the Bee Journal a couple of months ago about hiving packages at 22 degrees. It made sense to me so we tried it. Our temp wasn't quite as low. It was 32 degrees when we did our installation. We sprayed the bees with syrup until they were like a bunch of wet pellets. We stuck the queen cage between the top bars and dumped the bees on top of the bars. That left us with a sizeable mound of gooey bees. We covered the pile with a sheet of newspaper and placed an empty box on the newspaper to hold it down. You could feel the heat coming through the paper in a few minutes. We started the installation about 11:00 AM. Alex put a thermometer on top of the pile a couple of hours later. The temp was 60 degrees. It took the bees about four hours to go down on the combs. Everything looked great by evening. Two weeks after installation, they look great.

Our overwintered bees look good. I don't know why. They have had a lot of stress and our numbers are down. We pulled brood the last week in March to boost the weaker ones. Some of the weak colonies only had a handful of bees. Most of the weak ones got two frames of brood. I questioned whether the queens were good enough to warrant the infusion of brood. It now looks like the brood was the equivalent of giving the bees a happy pill. Those colonies have prospered. The weak ones that we didn't add bees to have gone downhill and many of them have died.

The wet weather has been a problem. Some of our yards have poor access. We haven't been able to get into them. It has made feeding difficult and splitting almost impossible. Our first shipment of queens was on time but we had to bank them for a week before we could use any of them.

It turned out that my hand wasn't broken. The swelling went down after about ten days. It was feeling pretty good until I slipped in the mud during a rainy day in one of the yards. I landed on the same hand. An extended period of cursing didn't do anything to ease the pain.

We are still fooling around with
Miteaway pads. We hit a warm spell toward the end of March. I had two yards in cartons that we could get to so we gave them pads. Since the colonies were in cartons, I didn't have to waste time taping up all the holes. We got around ten days of temps at the proper level. Later, I put them in three more yards and left sticky boards to monitor the drop. It started to rain so I haven't been able to get back into the yards to see if anything is happening. I have other yards that had lots of mites in the fall that are testing very low now. All these yards got was a shot of oxalic acid and a prayer in the fall. Logic tells me they should have a lot of mites but I can't find them.

Our numbers are going to be down so we kept 50 packages this year. They are in places where I have good access. We went back to the package yards and gave them a shot of oxalic before they had any capped brood. I hope we knocked off some of the mites they brought with them.

I hope everyone has a productive spring.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

**Featured Beekeeper of the Month**

This month our featured beekeeper is Cecelia Patterson. She lives in Danbury, Iowa, and has had a lifelong love of bees. Cecelia writes and tells us she grew up reading the book, “The Keeper of the Bees”, by Jean Stratton Porter. It was a story about a young man injured in WWI who became a beekeeper. There were bees in the wall of the family farmhouse near Waterbury, NE, and Cecelia enjoyed reading her book in the summers with the windows open so she could hear the bees humming and coming and going. Sometimes she even went out on the porch roof to watch the bees. They would swarm nearly every year around her birthday on June 12. The swarm would land on the box elder tree in front of the house and a neighbor would come and hive them. After graduating high school, Cecelia built a hive out of cottonwood boards, caught a swarm and was in business. Since her mother liked the bees she helped her locate more equipment. Cecelia managed to get both her parents and sister interested in bees. Not necessarily working with them, but helping extract, bottle and sell the honey. Her mother and father took her observation hive to schools to do presentations. Cecelia’s mother became know as the “Bee Lady” and was a self-proclaimed “World’s extra Grandma”.

Over the years Cecelia has bought packages, split colonies, caught swarms and dealt with foulbrood, chalk brood and varroa mites. She has attended a Queen rearing course taught by Marla Spivak and raised queens. For the most part she has tried not to use many chemicals and basically no chemicals since 2000 in her colonies. She believes using varroa resistant bees, screen bottoms and melting down brood combs that have absorbed the chemicals is the most important part of keeping healthy colonies. Now she keeps about 18 colonies and sells honey, comb honey and candles. In 2000 Cecelia found a new table saw in her Christmas stocking and now she enjoys making the woodenware. Another of her interests is painting and there are teddy bears, red headed woodpeckers, butterflies, robins, airplanes, sailboats, a rowboat with Cecelia and her dog fishing and many other items decorating Cecelia’s hives.

In 1982 Cecelia was elected President of the NE Nebraska Beekeepers Association. That was also the year she married Glenn (Bud) Patterson and moved to Danbury, Iowa. Bud had experience carrying deep supers down stairs for extracting and was not necessarily excited about working bees, however he did help pull honey and extract. Selling honey and visiting with customers was more to his liking.

Cecelia is a member of the Iowa Honey Producers and the American Beekeeping Federation. Whitt Spaulding needed a 4-H project in 1999 and started beekeeping at 10 years old with the able guidance of Cecelia. Whitt and Cecelia attended the 2003 meeting of the American Bee Federation and the 2006 Kansas-Missouri Beekeepers meeting. Whitt’s sister, Shiliah, joined the beekeeping project and they are doing very well. Shiliah and Cecelia attended the 2005 and 2006 Iowa Honey Producers meetings. This year Shiliah is the NW Iowa Honey Queen. Cecelia is now mentoring Tova Jessen, who is from Mapleton and in the Youth Beekeeping Partnership Program.

Because of her love for bees, Cecelia has spent countless hours learning about bees and has given her time helping younger people get started beekeeping. What a story. Thanks for sharing.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Cecelia’s nephew checks out the hive.
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ISSUE 5 – May 2007

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Iowa Beekeeper Clubs
Northeast Iowa Beekeepers
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Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
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National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Robert Haxton, Food Processing Plants,
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American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
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