President’s Report

I sit here waiting (in a small area reserved just for people that wait for vehicles to get fixed back up) for my truck to get worked on, (just a front end alignment) and get back at the hauling. The TV stations that are viewed in these facilities are quite interesting. If politics are your thing you would be in tall cotton here! I’ve had enough of that last year.

Beekeeping in Iowa, now that’s a subject that puts me in tall cotton! I look at the calendar and can’t believe that the state fair is just days away! Now you grab a state fair schedule and decide to go. Better check and see if you can work a shift at the booth at the fair. It seems we get it all filled the last minute. Remember, we will buy your ticket in if you work a shift.

My bees, it seems, are building like bees do— one hive great and another one I think forgot to read the book on how to find the nectar! I think to myself that some year I will get 20 nice hives and no more. Well that didn’t work this year. I got more splits than I wanted, and waiting on queens gets frustrating. I’m patient, but bees will react to what they get dealt. You set something up needing a queen you only have so much time. The time is gone for most of my set ups. This nectar flow is different this year for me. I keep thinking it hasn’t happened yet, I’m maybe wishing it hasn’t happened yet, and maybe I missed it. My comb honey production is very limited. Big hives that told me "not this year". Isn’t that just the way it goes? We seem to always want a little more and not be content with what we have. Human nature and beekeeping--they are sure alike. I’m grateful however, that the queens I was able to acquire are doing very well and building nicely. I just need to be watching varroa and do some checks; folks, we all need to do some checks and not just with our eyes. (You do not ever want to see mites on bees--by that time that hive is about gone) Ether rolls work; just do it! I learned my lesson last year: dead hives are costly and not what you want. If you want your bees to winter and make all the honey they can, check varroa levels.

We have honey harvest is fast approaching. Get the honey off fast so varroa can be successfully dealt with, if needed. Have a plan and carry it out on what you will do. One specific method of treating may not be enough. Research it, talk to other beekeepers as to what they do or have done in the past. Go to your local bee club and ask what does everyone do? This is a great subject for the clubs to chat about and form a plan that fits you.

I took a break from this and now two more days got away from me. Wow, I know one thing for sure: writing for a paper or magazine is not the easiest thing to pull off every month. I have great respect for those who can sit down and just get it done.

This association does have a lot going that is for sure. Most of the time anymore I struggle to create the time it takes. We need someone to step up and want the position of IHPA President. I will not run again, as I strongly feel it needs a person with more time than I have. My phone is always on if someone wants more information. I have to send this to editor or editor will be calling me! Looking forward to a fun month coming up and will have plenty to write about next month.

Bee kind -- Bee courteous -- Bee a blessing
Good night!
Roy Kraft, IHPA President

Did you know that the University of Montana offers Certification in Beekeeping? You can take courses online at various levels of expertise/experience. This would be a great way for a beek to develop skills and certification. By rising in training, any club member can offer great contributions to fellow beeks in your local area. You can connect eventually with Andy Joseph and help promote pollinators on the state level. We all need beeks in our clubs who are willing to help educate the newbees as they arrive in our clubs. Our whole association has grown greatly in the recent past due to an influx of newbees, but these people need mentors and advisors who will increase their effectiveness. Getting certification online is just one way you can serve our little pollinators and fellow beeks. If you aspire to leadership, go to http://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/bee/ and check it out.
We need your help at the 2017 Iowa State Fair booth!

Dear Beekeepers,

The Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 10 -20. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging products, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2016 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone’s support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 9am‐1.30pm, 1.30pm‐6pm and 6pm‐9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 10-20, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person:______________________________________________________________

2nd person:______________________________________________________________

3rd person:______________________________________________________________

Child’s name & ages:_______________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ____________ Zip ____________

Phone no.:________________________ Email address:__________________________

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 10-20.)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date: 9.00‐1.30pm  1.30pm‐6.00pm  6.00pm‐9.00pm
Date: 9.00‐1.30pm  1.30pm‐6.00pm  6.00pm‐9.00pm
Date: 9.00‐1.30pm  1.30pm‐6.00pm  6.00pm‐9.00pm
Date: 9.00‐1.30pm  1.30pm‐6.00pm  6.00pm‐9.00pm
Date: 9.00‐1.30pm  1.30pm‐6.00pm  6.00pm‐9.00pm

SAVE THE DATES!!

ANNUAL MEETING CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10 AND 11, 2017

GATEWAY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

OSKALOOSA, IOWA
Summer Field Day Exceeds Expectations

As I turned left on to Morris Hills Road, heading to the Wickiup Hill Learning Center, I couldn’t help but notice the ditches, fields and home gardens teeming with flowers in bloom, flowers of every color. If I were a honeybee, I would want to claim this piece of Iowa as my foraging ground. Saturday, July 15, was a gorgeous day for the Summer Field Day and we couldn’t have selected a more perfect location.

Over three quarters of the participants were first-time attendees at a Field Day. I learned most of you heard of the event through The Buzz. That tells me our untapped market is our own membership! Erin Miller, who help instrumentally with this event, told me months ago we would see many attendees from the eastern part of the state and indeed we did. We also welcomed several attendees from the northwest corner of our state and one young man traveled all the way from Ghana and attended our event.

Dr. Dale Hill, from Quincy, Illinois, who has a great background in honeybee research products and is the primary developer of Dadant’s AP23 pollen substitute, spoke first on nutrition for honeybees. Dr. Hill provided a comprehensive presentation supplemented by four handouts which are part of a series he is writing for the American Bee Journal on this very topic. He educated us on the incorrect premise of “you are what you eat” when referring to the nutrient levels in pollen brought back to the hive. He likens it more to “you are what you don’t excrete” since much of what pollen is made of is indigestible and thus excreted. He also spoke about plants found in the Midwest which are particularly attractive to the honeybee, such as those plants in the rose family, legumes, mints, figwort, mustard and asters. By planting trees, shrubs and flowers which bloom throughout the growing season, you’ll have a honeybee haven.

Andy Joseph travels our state, corner to corner, north to south, east to west—tirelessly, it seems—and he loves his job as state apiarist. He’ll tell you that but it also shows. Our bees are doing well but testing for mites is paramount. With three other inspectors on hand to help complete part of a research project, he is able to get out a bit more.

I heard and read great reviews about the lunch catered by Connie’s Catering out of Palo. Unfortunately, I was too busy visiting with attendees and keeping an eye on the clock and only sampled the desserts. They did not disappoint. During lunch we heard from both the American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, and the Iowa Honey Queen, Carly Vannoy. Both ladies are busy traveling the state and the country speaking in front of groups of all ages and backgrounds. Education is the key to spreading the word about the importance of not only the honeybee, but our native bees and other pollinators in peril. Both young women are from Iowa and serve our state and the honeybee well.

The Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) president, Roy Kraft, unveiled the two bee quilts made by many of you and then put together by his lovely wife, Jodi. One quilt will be auctioned off at the Friday evening banquet (Annual Meeting and Conference) and the other will be part of the raffle with the drawing to be held on Saturday. Both are beautiful and feature a center panel depicting a skep and birdhouse in front of a white picket fence and flowers along with a bee and a big yellow sun. Two of us will be fortunate to take a quilt home in November.

Breakout sessions included Jerry Weldon showing how to put equipment together. Jerry does exceptionally well in front of a crowd and is always eager to share what he knows. His jigs are carefully crafted and he’ll be the first to tell you to adapt yours to how you want to work. He’s all about maximizing his output in minimal time with the end product being the best it can be – which is next to perfect. I enjoyed watching him engage the crowd.
Marlene Boernsen traveled roughly four hours to Toddville to present on flavored creamed honey. In February Marlene told me it was simple to make creamed honey and after listening to parts of her presentation three times, I now understand is really is easy. Along with Marlene, Kurt Rueber of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, spoke about what it means to have a certified kitchen and when you need to have one. Confusing? Yes, but Kurt did an excellent job of answering your many questions.

Bob Wolff was on hand to explain a few simple methods that aren’t too technical in nature but give the results you need. His research and years of experience and thoughtful explanation made learning about mites not so intimidating.

The day could have ended after the breakout sessions but an encore was in store, a hands-on extraction demonstration. Every seat in the room was full for Gregg and Suzanne Lind as they wasted no time to get the crowd involved in the uncapping process and then turning the extractor. Sure, you can watch a YouTube video about how to extract honey, but I guarantee you, it was more fun listening to Gregg’s commentary and watching him dance from one side of the table down to the extractor.

As I have mentioned before, putting an event together such as this takes a lot of thought, time, organization and coordination. I read a lot of reviews from previous years’ events and took your feedback, coupled it with my thoughts and observations and reached out for assistance. Thank you to Erin Miller and Shane Bixby for their idea to hold this event at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center. In all honesty, finding the right location is half the work to make the event a success. I think we nailed it spot on this year. They also helped with the setup of the rooms (all those tables and chairs), made the signs, made lots of coffee, provided the frames of honey to extract and helped with many other behind-the-scenes details.

As a group, I’d like to thank all of our presenters who came far and wide to help make our experience engaging, informative and fun. All these people had to be available on the same day and four had to perform their presentation three times. Some are not on the speaking circuit but they are your peers and volunteered their time.

If you had a taste of the great honey lemonade, a thank you goes to Connie Bronnenberg for making it and donating the honey. A thank you also goes to Rhonda Heston for handling the registrations and making sure we did not exceed the fire code limit.

A heartfelt thank you to Jenny Corbett, Lead Naturalist at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center. She runs a great facility that surely will be visited by many more in the future with the great advertising I know you will do for it.

When you have great food, you have a great event. Connie did an excellent job with lunch as did all of you who brought a dessert for the dessert bar. Thanks to YOU, I’ll need to burn up a few more miles on the bike trail!

In conclusion, I hope you learned something and felt you got your money’s worth. Next year we’ll try to move the event to the western part of the state and take careful consideration of the topics you suggested on the evaluation.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President (organizer of the whole Field Day)

Our IHPA Board met after the Field Day in Wickiup. It was a good meeting with many topics (Annual Meeting, etc) being discussed. The next meeting will be held on September 30 in Ankeny at DMAC at 2:00. If there are IHPA members who would like to serve in leadership, please contact Roy Kraft. There are several openings, including President and Vice President, as well as a couple District Director positions.
ANNOUNCING
THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS

**Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland’s Department of Entomology and an internationally known honey bee epidemiologist. He graduated with a master’s degree in apiculture at the University of Guelph and worked for the Canadian Government as a consultant to the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative in the West Indies. He returned north to work at Cornell University as an extension agent before working as the Acting State Apiarist for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through a contract with Penn State University, where he also earned his PhD. He has served as the President of the Apiary Inspectors of America, is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group, was a board member of Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Ice Cream Bee Board, is a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition and is the President of the Bee Informed Partnership, Inc. Dennis has written extensively, has been widely interviewed (including the New York Times, Le Monde, the Guardian, the Globe and Mail, the New Yorker, Time, Fortune Magazine, People magazine, Discover, Science News, Science Magazine, National Geographic magazine, Spiegel); radio, (including NPR, The Rutherford Show, ABC radio; Wisconsin Public Radio; KPFA’s Morning Show; numerous local and regional news, television (including Good Morning America, FOX news, 60 minutes, CBC, PBS News Hour) and documentary film (including Silence of the Bees, the Last Beekeeper, Vanishing of the Bees, The Collectors). He has given well over 300 talks on beekeeping including the French Parliament Agricultural Committee in Paris, the EU parliamentary commission on Colony Health, in Brussels.

**Marion Ellis** received his B.S. in biology and M.S. in agricultural biology from University of Tennessee in 1972 and 1974, respectively. Upon completing his M.S., he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru and El Salvador working as a teacher and extension specialist. He then spent four years at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station working on pollination of plant germplasm collections and 15 years as the Nebraska State Apiculturist. After 21 years of applied apiculture work, he returned to school and completed a Ph.D. in entomology in 1994.

Currently, he is a professor emeritus of entomology at the University of Nebraska, where he taught classes in bee biology and beekeeping and presentation methods. His extension programs included beginning and advanced beekeeping workshops, youth outreach education and workshops for K-12 teachers on using insects in science education. His research interests are investigating novel strategies for managing varroa mites and reducing bee injury from pesticides applied to crops. His most recent research investigated synergistic interactions among drugs used in beekeeping and the sub-lethal effect of pesticides on the reproductive members of a honey bee colony.

**Rhonda Fleming Hayes** is the author of Pollinator Friendly Gardening: Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators. She is an award-winning writer and photographer applying her passion for all things plant-related with wit and solid research-based advice. A columnist for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, she has also been published in Mother Earth Living, The Herbalist, and many online sites. Rhonda became certified as an Extension Master Gardener in 2000 but has been gardening in some form or fashion since she was a child at her grandmother's knee. She is a member of the Garden Writers Association, The Herb Society of America, The Xerces Society and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. She is a trustee of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.
105th Iowa Honey Producers Association
Conference and Annual Meeting
November 10 -11, 2017
Gateway Church of the Nazarene - Oskaloosa, Iowa

Keynote Speakers include Marion Ellis and Dennis vanEngelsdorp
(See more details in The Buzz newsletter or online at www.iowahoneyproducers.org)

Friday and Saturday ~~ Registration: 8:00 AM ~~ Conference/Annual Meeting: 8:30 AM
Friday ~~ Queen Luncheon - Noon ~~ Social Hour - 5:00 PM ~~ Banquet - 6:15 PM
Saturday ~~ Meet the Board & Directors Luncheon - Noon

Please print legibly!

Name: _________________________________________________  No. of colonies: ______________
Address: _______________________________________________  Years in Beekeeping: _________
City/State/Zip: _________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________ County: ________________________
E-mail Address: ________________________________________________________________________

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31st ** NO EXCEPTIONS **
If you can only attend one day, no discounts are offered. No refunds given after November 1st.
** Pre-registration received by October 31st will be entered into a drawing for 2 free banquet meals! **

Conference and Annual Meeting Fees:

INDIVIDUAL:
Registration BEFORE October 31st - $35 / AFTER October 31st - $40
$ __________

COUPLE / FAMILY:
Registration BEFORE October 31st - $45 / AFTER October 31st - $50
$ __________

QUEEN LUNCHEON – Friday Noon (pre-registration required) (Orange glazed pork roast)
Number of tickets (per adult) __________   x $14.00 $ __________
Number of tickets (per child 4-12 years) _________  x $10.00           $ __________

BANQUET – Friday at 6:15 PM Banquet Keynote Speaker – Dennis vanEngelsdorp
Number of tickets (per adult) __________  x $ 24.00            $ __________
Number of tickets (per child 4-12 years) _________  x $ 17.00            $ __________

MEET THE BOARD & DIRECTORS LUNCHEON – Saturday Noon (pre-registration required)
Number of tickets (per person) (Box lunch - drink extra) x $ 8.00 $ __________
Sandwich options offered will be smoked dried beef, smoked ham and roasted turkey

2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES
IHAP membership dues (includes subscription to “The Buzz” newsletter) $20.00 $ __________
2nd Family membership w/same address - Name - ___________________________ $ 5.00            $ __________
3rd Family membership w/same address - Name - ___________________________ $ 5.00            $ _________

TOTAL DUE: $ __________

Return this completed form along with payment to: Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
Check payable to Iowa Honey Producers Association 52735 187th Avenue
Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation Chariton, IA 50049

** REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL – ROOMS WILL GO QUICKLY – DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE **

Event questions can be directed to Eve Vanden Broek, VP IHAP at mrsheo@iowatelecom.net or 515-491-6760
Let’s Get Serious About the Annual Meeting and Conference

The Summer Field Day has come and gone and now it’s time to get serious about the Annual Meeting and Conference. The event will be held **November 10 and 11 at the Gateway Church of the Nazarene in Oskaloosa, Iowa.** If you are a new member to the Iowa Honey Producers Association, this is the organization’s annual meeting where honeybee experts are brought to Iowa to educate us in their field of expertise. We also learn about the state of Iowa’s honeybees from the state apiarist, and we sprinkle in a few additional talks by others who do honeybee research or who have honeybees or products of the hive near and dear to their heart. Vendors will be on hand to sell you the latest products or those tools you can’t live without, and we feature cooking, photo and hive-painting contests. Curious about the history of the Iowa Honey Producers Association? We’ve got that covered. We’ll have a table where you can read what has been happening in Iowa for nearly a hundred years. We’ll also elect a new Iowa Queen, celebrate the honeybee in grand style as we come together for a Friday night banquet, and present awards to those beekeepers so deserving of recognition. And if all that is not enough, you can fill your car up with items from the ever-popular silent auction or bid on one-of-a-kind items at the Queen auction following the banquet. Lest I forget, you could walk away with one of two honeybee quilts.

If you have been to one of these gatherings, you know first-hand how valuable it is to attend. It’s a great opportunity to learn about what is new in the beekeeping industry and talk with beekeepers from around our state and beyond our borders. Regardless of your level of experience, there will be something for you. It’s a fun event. It’s an educational event. It’s a great exchange of ideas and an event that is put together especially for you.

Guest speakers this year include Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Marion Ellis, Rhonda Flemming Hayes, Andy Joseph and others. Read speaker bios in this edition of The Buzz.

Remember, there are only so many hotel rooms available. If you haven’t yet booked your room, putting it off another month or two may find you scrambling for a place to lay your head at the last minute. Check out the website for hotel options and room rates.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President

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**NEW**

For the 2017 Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Meeting & Conference in November

**It’s a Honey**

**Here’s how it works...**

**YOU** bring a 1 lb. jar of your **IOWA HONEY** – labeled and in the container of your choice - drop off at the registration table at the event. You will be asked to fill out a 3 x 5 card with your name and the county from where the honey was collected. If you attend from another state, the same rules will apply but include your state. Yes, you can swap more than one jar. No store bought honey, please.

You will receive a ticket for each jar you provide. On both days (afternoon) you will turn in your ticket(s) for an equal number of jars at the swap.

Honey will be displayed for all to see.

Join in the fun ... show off your honey ...

Taste new honey from around our great state!

Participation is easy and as near to free as you can get!

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**Editor’s Note:**

Update on Prizes at the Annual Meeting: The IHPA leadership is not prepared to announce how fine the prizes are going to be for the various contests. You will find the contests listed elsewhere in the Buzz, but here’s a warning from President Roy Kraft—“Get those cookbooks out and start practicing, because the prizes are going to be good!” I’m thinking the same goes for all the other categories of the contests. Watch the September Buzz for final word on developing decisions on prizes.
Hello Everyone!!

Summer is here and it’s time to start preparing your recipes for the Annual Meeting in November. Let’s get cooking, taking photos and painting those hives!

Below are the rules for the Annual Meeting contests. This year some great prizes are planned for all categories and contests so please stay tuned to the Buzz as the updates on these will come later.

Remember this year we are meeting at a new facility and the kitchen area will be to our advantage for the cooking contest. This year there will NOT be a Mead Contest. Due to the facility we are using, no alcoholic beverages will be on the premises, so please watch those recipes that call for “special” ingredients as these will not be permitted.

2017 IHPA Annual Meeting Contest Rules

Contest will be Friday, November 10th, 2017. Entries need to be in place by 10:00 a.m.

This year there will NOT be a Mead Contest. Due to the facility we are using, no alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises.

Rules for the Cooking Contest:

~Honey is to be the only sweetener.
~Please submit your recipe with your entry.
~Contest coordinator will keep recipes to be included in the Buzz newsletter.
~Your name needs to be on the back of the recipe card.
~Bring enough samples for judging as well as tasting at the afternoon break on Friday.

Categories to be submitted will include:

Breads/Jams and Jellies
Breakfast/Main Dishes/Soups
Candies/Cookies/Brownies/Bars/Desserts/Cakes/Pies
Fruits/Salads/Vegetables
Snacks/Appetizers/Beverages (Non-Alcoholic)
This ‘n That Edibles--BBQ and other sauces, dressings, marinades; Honey Butters
Fruit Dips; Ice Cream/Sorbets/Fudge Pops

*Note: Frostings and icings need to be included on a cake so will not be part of this category.

Entries will be judged on:
~Presentation of entry.
~Best use of honey.
~Amount of honey used (compared to other entries in the category)
~Flavor of entry.
~Overall appearance of entry.

(Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries).

Rules for the “People’s Choice” Photo Contest:

~Photo must be matted but not framed.
~Any size photo will be accepted for this competition.
~Your name needs to be on the back side of the photo.
~Must be a Honey Bee, not a Bumblebee or native Iowa Bee.
~Photo context will be judged by the Annual Meeting participants as a whole.

Categories to be submitted will include

Bee on a flower.
General beekeeping.
Marketing or promotion.
Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey.

Rules for Hive Body Paint Design Contest:

~There are two categories:
   *Adult (16 years of age or older)
   *Youth (15 years of age or younger)
~Your name needs to be written on paper provided in the contest room.
~The use of stenciling is not allowed.
~Hand painted design to cover a minimum of one side of the hive body.
~Theme of your choice.

Remember special prizes are being offered. We need participation this year because if we don’t have the participation, these contests will no longer happen. Time and work does go into setting this up so please participate.

Thank you!

Jodi Kraft, Contest Coordinator
Month by Month, August 2017
It’s been a while, life has been busy, but there are a few thought I want to share,

Oblivious: 1 -lacking remembrance, memory or mindful attention. 2 – Lacking active conscious knowledge or awareness.

It’s 2:45 a.m. I should be sleeping, but I am wide awake. I’ve been trying to think of what to write about for a couple of days and have been coming up empty. But it finely hit me!! Oblivious – I was totally oblivious to what it was happening to me. On May 13th, I was to be in Sioux Center, IA for a field day with Dave Korver and Ron Rynders and their local bee club, (remember the annual meeting in 2016 where people were auction off? I was sold to Dave and Ron). It was an advanced field day class where we split bee hives and grafted queens. But on May 12th at 4:00 am I had a full day ahead of me. I needed to pick up and close up 60 nucs that I needed to deliver, check out 3 more yards of bees to make sure the queens were out and doing well and leave by noon. The morning was going as planned; I had my blinders on and was totally focused on what I was doing. The nucs were picked up and were in the shop with fans blowing on them, keeping them cool, it was 10:30 am and I was in my last yard when it happened!! There, out of the blue, it was loud and big–yes it was a swarm and I am thinking to myself, “I don’t have time for this!! I had to go, schedule to keep, I needed to be ready to go in 90 minutes, pack myself, pack the nucs and be on the road by noon!!” OBLIVIOUS!! What to do? I can’t just let it go! But it had not landed yet! So I watched them, up through the trees and out into the corn field. It was gone; the corn field was just sliding doors of the shed and brood box. So you know how machine shed doors kind of wiggle a bit in the wind when not closed? Guess what, after a few days the wind wiggled the door and wiggled that box right off the platform and down they went, box and bees. We thought they would leave, but to our surprise, they didn’t and just congregated back on the door. So up went the brood box again and yes they went back in it! That swarm is now in two brood boxes with honey supers on.

Was I oblivious in preventing that hive from swarming? Maybe. I try to prevent them, but it still happened. I was oblivious in seeing it right over my head in the shed? Yep. Was I oblivious in my first attempt in putting the box on the platform, not taking care for the door movement? Yep. All this could have cost me in not catching the swarm.

There is another oblivious that could cost us our hives, and that’s mites. Helping people with their bees, we’ve heard them say, “We don’t have mites,” because they don’t “see” them on the bees and therefore assume they don’t have mites and are not doing anything in terms of treatment or testing. I ask, have you tested for mites or is “seeing” them your only criteria for mite infestation? How accurate is this testing? How often do you see your queen when you are looking for her? She is many times larger than mites, you know. Routinely we all go into our hives for the sole purpose of looking for swarm cells, queenlessness, food stores, etc. Do you then go in for just looking for mites on bees? Many studies state that only 20% of mites in a hive are on the bees that we can “see” with the other 80% being under the capped brood. The 80% of mites you don’t “see” under the capped brood are the ones doing their damage to your brood. I am not trying to be mean or offensive, but to help educate and raise awareness. When getting your bees ready for winter, it doesn’t make any difference if you feed them buckets of food and have them wrapped in warm wooly blanks; if the bees have damage (viruses) from mites or still have a large mite population, the mites will kill your hive before spring regardless of your food and protection efforts. The number one problem for beekeepers is mites- mites - mites and I feel so many are not taking this threat seriously, but are oblivious. (1 -lacking remembrance, memory or mindful attention. 2 – Lacking active conscious knowledge or awareness) We do mite detection in every bee yard; it’s a simple and easy test. Using a tapping scraper, skewer the capped drone brood. (mites love drone brood) When you pull or lift out the drone larva on the end of your tapping scraper, it’ll be very easy to see if you have mites. They will be dark pin head sized dots on the white larva. Again, we do this routinely in each bee yard. It is an easy, fast detection of mites, and gives us a quick basis from where we have to make a decision. From there, we may do a more accurate test such as an ether roll for mite counts. There are other methods for testing, such as 24-hour sticky board drop, powdered sugar roll, alcohol wash, etc, Use something that will give you accurate results. After the test, we decide on treatment method. We test again after treatment, or how will
It’s time to be thinking about donating to the actions at the Annual Meeting. Anything you have that would be of interest to the membership is welcome. Some will be auctioned off live, some will go on the silent auction. Proceeds from the auction go to help fund the Iowa Honey Queen as she travels our state attending various events. Thanks in advance for bringing auction items to Oskaloosa in November.

Connie Bronnenburg, Honey Queen Program Chair

(Month By Month Cont.

preferences on treatment methods--chemicals, oxalic acid, essential oils, mineral oils, whatever you find works for you, but have a plan in place, because we all have mites. I have heard this from many beekeepers I respect: “Just assume you have mites, and test for them - test for them - test for them”. I want healthy bees, I want my bees to survive and thrive, so I have taken this advice to heart and practice. Do you know where your mite counts are? Have you tested to see and verified your treatment methods are working? Please remember, over 80% of the mites in your hive are under the capped developing brood and not on the bees. If we “see” mites on bees, we have a big problem under the capped brood. Deal with those mites or they will kill your hive. Don’t be oblivious to this problem.

Pat Ennis

American Gothic.

Most of us recognize this painting, and the editor could not resist creating a look-alike on the cover of this month’s magazine. I confess that when Erin Miller and Shane Bixby sent a nice report on their queen rearing class, I did not learn the names of the people who graduated from her queen rearing class, so I can’t introduce them. And I apologize to the others in the photo who also learned to rear queens (there were at least five of them). I just hope they all see the humor in the cover and don’t feel insulted. I’m jealous, actually, that you got to take the class and I didn’t--I want to learn! (Editor)

Here’s Erin and Shane’s report: (along with a standing invite/challenge to all of you to submit articles like this one for all of us to share).

A queen rearing class was held in June at Wickiup Hill Learning Center to teach grafting along with other techniques. I am thrilled to share that the class was able to successfully graft more than a couple dozen queens on their first attempt. Way to go!!!

There are many reasons beekeepers decide to raise queens; it saves money; it increases desired traits, allows pest and disease control, and offers failing queen replacement. We started queen rearing for the simple fact that queens are tiny insects that can easily be damaged; it is handy to have extra queens available for those emergency situations. Queen rearing can be accomplished by any beekeeper with some basic knowledge of basic biology and bee behaviors. There are many techniques one could use to rear queens but you must have the following regardless of the chosen method:

1. Breeder Hive: Select a strong healthy hive that processed the traits you would like to continue.
2. Queenless Cell Builder Hive: If you want to force your bees to create a queen you must take theirs away.
3. Mating Nuc: You will need a mating nuc for each queen you intend to raise. Remember there can be only one queen.
4. Drones: Queens must have 8-14 drones to mate properly. Be careful not to rear queens too early or too late in the season.
5. Good Weather: Queens will need warm sunny days for their mating flights.

With all things said, with beekeeping there isn’t a single method or answer that fits or works for everyone. One should find what works best for them. We hope this is just the start of your queen rearing journey and that you experiment with many different methods or create your own.

Erin Miller-Master Beekeeper UMT

Shane Bixby-District 2 Director
The Iowa Honey Producers Association supports honeybee and beekeeping research through donations to research projects during the IHPA Annual Meeting.

The IHPA Donation Proposal Form will need to be submitted during the Submission Period prior to the Annual Meeting. The IHPA Board will review the stated use of the donation to confirm the use is in line with the goal of promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping. This review will allow the board time to request additional information if needed, and ensure total proposed donations do not exceed the association’s budget for research donations.

With acceptance by the IHPA Board, the Donation Proposal will be brought to the floor during the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting for a vote by the members. Donation Proposals can be made by anyone with a current IHPA membership. Members are encouraged to help the Association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers and the honey industry.

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2017
Submission Period: July 1st – October 15th

IHPA Member submitting the Donation Proposal.

Name: _______________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________________________
E-Mail Address: ________________________________________________

Donation Proposal

Proposed dollar amount of the IHPA Donation: $___________________

Contact Information for head researcher / project organization.

Name: _______________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________________________
E-Mail Address: ________________________________________________
The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com
Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250  Cell 712-449-5010

The deadline for submissions is the 10th 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.

Red Rock Beekeeping Club

The first monthly meeting of the Red Rock Beekeeping Club was in April 2011 and it is the closest beekeeping club to Lake Red Rock, our namesake. It’s an informal and unstructured club with no officers and no membership dues. Occasionally, the club has guest speakers; however, there are novice, experienced and seasoned beekeepers who love sharing and learning. The learning never seems to stop and sometimes it’s unlearning something.

Individuals regularly attend who live in Lucas, Marion, Marshall and Jasper Counties. It’s an open club and everyone is welcome. Meeting throughout the year has helped a few snowbirds continue learning and enabled the club to be helpful when people are working bees.

The club has an awesome lending library of beekeeping books primarily donated by Jerry Murphy, our founding father. It’s unlikely that public libraries will have these resources available. Book circulation increased recently when a member gave a book report. Who knew?

Over the past several years, club members have taught Beginning Beekeeping Classes in Albia, Chariton, Knoxville and Ottumwa. In addition during the past 6 years, there have been six Youth Scholarships sponsored by the Red Rock Beekeepers through member donations as well as recurring support from Pat Ennis and Craig Greene.

A number of field days have been held over the years in an effort to provide that early hands on training or unique experience that comes on a field day.

Red Rock Beekeepers meet at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month throughout the year in the Oak Room of the Marion County Iowa State Extension Office located at 210 N. Iowa St., (corner of Iowa St. and Pleasant St.) Knoxville. If you’re interested in getting together with beekeepers on a regular basis or simply learning more about beekeeping, please feel free to join us.

Sincerely, Red Rock Beekeeping Club

Jerry & Sheila Weldon
(641)891-4071 or (641)891-2268
weldonjs@iowatelecom.net

Thanks to Jerry and Sheila for submitting this fine report on a healthy bee club. We’d like to run articles from all the clubs, so

For Sale: Maxant Motorized Chain Uncapper, used one season, very good condition.
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Editor Note:

I recently got burned. I am interested in rearing my own queens, to provide my club with winter-hardy types that might know about mite fighting. I heard of a supplier who claimed to be treatment-free for many years. I bought two nucs.

Much time went by, and only the last day of June did he have the nucs ready. When I went to his place, he told of going to CA with his bees, and everyone knows migrating bees are NOT treatment-free! He explained that the weather and a broken computer were against him, trying to explain why the nucs were ready so late.

When we got the boxes home, one was broodless. Another queenless. The rest were light. None of them had been living in the box they were delivered in—they had simply been set into the box just prior to pickup. His 4-frame nucs compared sadly with the 5-frame nucs I had bought way back in April from another Iowan. And he had the gall to charge the same price.

I blush to admit that I didn’t argue and inspect and demand my money back. Call me weak-spined. But I try to be nice to people; too bad that is not true of the supplier.

Moral: Collect advice before buying next winter/spring. I’m glad to provide more details in person. We tend to look around us in the beekeeping circles we travel in, and we trust people and expect them to be honest; but it’s not a bad idea to do some background checking and collect references when buying nucs. Charlatans exist! --Ron Rynders. (contact info below)
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American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABFnet.org

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