President's Report

Beekeepers of Iowa,

We have the 2019 annual meeting in the record books. Keri, I believe I could not do it any better than the way this one came off! My hat is off to you. GREAT JOB!! You have talent setting up stuff. This fall has been a trying one to get the work done before this meeting. I believe a lot of us just could not make that happen and understandable. When you are relying on mother nature, she can sometimes have different ideas. We had a great, successful, and informative Annual Meeting. I would like to thank the members at the meeting for electing me your President for 2020. I would like to thank Tina Meyer, Dave Kover, Eric Kenoyer, and Keri Kenoyer for their service on the board. I'm looking forward to working with our new officers, Kris Silvers as Vice President, Carrol Vannoy as our new Historian, Jason Foley our new District 5 Director, and Jim Kraninger our new District 6 Director. I announced to the membership before elections that a new position will be created. I will be appointing an Event Coordinator to put together Summer Field Day and the Annual Meeting. The Vice President will no longer have this responsibility. I have found a person and will announce this after the board approves this appointment at the next board meeting. We will meet for our first 2020 board meeting the last Saturday in January at the Ames Public Library. It will be an all-day meeting to plan the year and get to know one another.

If you missed the Annual Meeting in DesMoines I will try and recap a bit as a lot happened. Our Iowa Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig stopped in and acknowledged us!!!! I say it that way since I was very impressed that he wanted to come and speak. Our legislative committee is doing things that are making a difference. Jamie Beyer, your work is truly amazing and special. Let's all work with Jamie, support him, let him lead us and show us how to get some issues figured out legislatively. He truly does have connections. (He is like a little AT&T company).

The Holiday Inn Airport seemed to be a very good fit for us and we were well-received by people there. I will say I'm in negotiations for next year with them.

I made an effort to observe some of our scholars in progress, the ones going out and the new ones coming in. Ted Reeves does a great job organizing and putting this together. It's fun for me to see the curiosity, anxiousness, and very attentiveness our new young adults showed me. I truly believe this program is one of the BEST things the IHPA does. I so remember building my first hive with my mom. It's meaningful to recall the same anxiousness, curiosity and attentiveness as these young adults.

The speakers were fantastic! There was truly something for everyone. I don't have the names in front of me to name, and I do not want to forget someone. I thank them all for coming.

We listened to Brooklyn Pardall, our 2019 IHPA queen, tell about her year. Her travels were long as she was living in our far SE county of Iowa. We wish you the best, Brooklyn! Stay in touch.

We have a new queen for 2020. Please welcome Abigail Kelly. Abigail is full of excitement and has a great queen smile! Can't wait to see and hear about the things the queen will do. I have to mention her sisters—yes, more than one! What a great family and young assistants she has! The Kelly girls are a great family of young ladies.

I want to thank the board for a great year. It was fun and great to be on time with board meetings and have them end in a timely fashion. Mary Wiltgen, you would have been proud to see that we ended ON TIME. The credit goes to all paying attention and respecting each other. Let's do it again this coming up year.

I need to get this to editor. I need a nap, but I'm still trying to unwind after this great event. Till next month, good night!

Roy Kraft, IHPA President once again.
Final Note from Keri Kenoyer:

Welcome to December fellow Buzz readers. Another Fall Conference has come and gone. Thank you to all of you who attended. I hope you gained some new knowledge from the plethora of speakers and maybe met a new friend or two. I appreciate all the kind words of encouragement I have received from many of you and the couple cards and notes I have gotten in the mail have brightened my week! The venue this year seems to have worked out great for everyone. Except for a couple minor AV mishaps that were out of our control, Fall Conference went pretty well. Hopefully it works out to hold it there again next year. I have made notes and suggestions for the new event planner if they choose to use them.

I feel I need to apologize to many of you for not accepting the Event Planner or VP position this time around- I truly appreciate your faith and confidence in me. However, I put A LOT of projects on hold this last year as I got my bearings in my new role. One of these was my children and grandchild. The other was the business Eric and I are trying to nurture and grow for our family. Our middle son, Ethan (many of you met him Friday as the “doorman”) is about to graduate high school and embark on a new chapter in his life. I want to be there to soak up every minute! Plus, there are lots of exciting ventures in the works here at Kenoyer Farms. This conference has really sparked some ideas for us. For those that follow us on Facebook, stay tuned!!

Congratulations to Abigail Kelly who was crowned IHPA’s 2020 Honey Queen! This young lady is amazing and will do great things in this new role for her. I look forward to hearing or reading about all the fun presentations she will be giving and the adventures she will have! Megan and Emma, you two are exceptional young ladies! This year was a VERY close race for the crown. I have loved watching you two grow over the last few years and look forward to seeing you at future club events.

Congratulations to Jim Kraniger and Jason Foley on your new positions with the IHPA! (Jason replaces Eric Kenoyer and Jim replaces Dave Korver) You two are a great addition to the board and I see you doing great things for the organization. To the board members that Eric and I were able to serve with, Thank you for a great year!

Each of you has become a great friend, remember we haven’t gone away completely and are only a phone call away. I’m sure we will see y’all around somewhere.

Well, I must sign off for now, I have holiday parties to plan, a Santa’s Workshop to map out and new products to make for the upcoming holidays. I hope each and every one of you has a blessed Thanksgiving, a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!! Until the next time- keep buzzin.

Keri Kenoyer – ex VP

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The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) is sponsoring a day long Winter Beekeeping Seminar on Saturday, January 18, 2020. Attached is a flyer and registration form with information on the event. Please distribute this to your club members as you see fit. This info along with the agenda is also available on line at [https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/mc-events/ciba-winter-seminar-2020/?mc_id=9](https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/mc-events/ciba-winter-seminar-2020/?mc_id=9)

For this event we hope to draw beekeepers from across the state as well as the public. In 2017 when CIBA had a similar day long event we sold out. At that seminar we had the majority of clubs represented as well as beekeepers from outside the state. I hope our speakers and their topics generate as much interest this year. The speakers are not only excellent but their topics address problems most of us face whether we are beginners, sideliners or commercial beekeepers... Each attendee’s name tag will include their self identified club association(s), which during our breaks and luncheon we hope will increase the conversation about local clubs and encourage further club interest and participation.

On that Saturday as people enter, CIBA will hand out a folder with various information. This will include info on the seminar, handouts from beekeeping vendors, state and local bee club info and other bee related information.

CIBA would be glad to include pertinent information on your club in the folder. You would need to provide up to 240 copies at least 10 days prior to the event (seating capacity is limited to 225). CIBA will stuff the folders and there is no charge for inclusion. I would appreciate your letting me know shortly if you wish to include info in the folder along with an idea of the number of pages.

If any questions please contact me.

Linn Wilbur, VP and Program Chair CIBA 515.291.6204

See next two pages for program and registration form.
CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

When: Saturday, January 18, 2020
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Where: Grimes Community Complex
410 SE Main Street
Grimes, IA 50111
Who: Dr. Lawrence John Connor
Dr. Judy Wu-Smart
Mr. Sheldon Brummel
Contact: Linn Wilbur, lwilbur50201@gmail.com, 515.382.4882
Website: https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org

Speakers:
- Dr. Larry Connor will give talks on Keeping Bees Alive--Sustainable Beekeeping Concepts and Increase Essentials--Population Control, Mite Management and Much More. Dr. Connor is author and coauthor of numerous beekeeping books, a former university professor and instrumental in Dadant’s former Starline and Midnite queen rearing program. Presently he is head of Wicwas Press which publishes many beekeeping books.

- Dr. Judy Wu-Smart is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and will talk on Managing for honey production and other considerations for the Mid-West. Dr. Wu-Smart is Director of the UNL Bee Lab.

- Mr. Sheldon Brummel is associated with the UNL Bee Lab and is the Coordinator for the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Project. His talks are on the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program and on Bee Friendly Backyards.

The Winter Seminar fee is $35 for CIBA members and $40 for non-members, including an on-site catered luncheon by Felix and Oscars. Look forward to an Iowa comfort food meal.

Additional information and mail-in registration forms are available on the CIBA website at https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org

Registration deadline is January 7, 2020 postmark.

Registration is required for attendance as there will be no ticket sales at the door on the day of the seminar.

Seating is limited.

We plan to hold the event unless the City of Grimes determines the facility can’t be opened because of severe weather.
CIBA WINTER BEEKEEPING SEMINAR  
Sponsored by the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association  
Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Grimes Community Complex, 410 SE Main, Grimes, IA 50111  
Questions? Ask Linn Wilbur at 515.382.4882 or lwilbur50201@gmail.com  
Additional information at https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org  

8:30 Registration

9:00-12:00 Morning session with Dr. Lawrence John Connor, Wicwas Press, Kalamazoo, MI  
--Keeping Bees Alive—Sustainable Beekeeping Concepts  
--Increase Essentials—Population Control, Mite Management and Much More  

12-1:00 Catered lunch on site by Felix and Oscar's, Des Moines. Look forward to an Iowa comfort food meal.  

1:00-4:30 Afternoon session with Dr. Judy Wu Smart and Mr. Sheldon Brummel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
--About Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program  
--Managing for honey production and other considerations for the Midwest  
--Bee Friendly Back Yards

Cut here and mail bottom portion to CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Linn Wilbur, 64626 170th St., Nevada, IA 50201-7653

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Registration per person is $35 for CIBA members and $40 for non-members.  
Total enclosed:  

Make checks payable to: CIBA. Postmark by Jan 7, 2020.  
Pre-registration required. No ticket sales at the door on the day of the seminar. Seating is limited.  
You will receive confirmation of your registration.

By registering for this event, you are releasing the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, its officers and board members and the City of Grimes from any and all harm that may occur as a result of attending this Winter Seminar. We plan to hold the event except if the City of Grimes determines the facility can not be opened because of severe weather.

Mail form to CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Linn Wilbur, 64626 170th St., Nevada, IA 50201-7653
Each year at the Annual Fall Conference banquet, the IHPA holds an awards ceremony to honor those that fellow members feel deserve some recognition for their outstanding service to the beekeeping community. Awards are given in the following areas:

**Pioneer Award** - For having been involved in beekeeping for 50 years or more and are still active in beekeeping. Linn Danzer was recognized for his service. Linn is a master at capturing swarms.

**Distinguished Service Award** - For assisting other beekeepers, being willing to share information, and/or serving the state organization. Winners this year included Carole Vannoy, Jamie Beyer, Ron Rynders and Mike and Julie Sander.

**Education Award** - For teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or TV.

**Promotions Award** - For promoting honey and beekeeping, promotions for the state association or promoting their own product.

**Friendship Award** - For being a friend of the association. This could be someone who has displayed at the annual IHPA trade show or a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping. They do not need to be a member of our beekeeping community. The quilters who helped Jodi Kraft assemble the quilts were awarded this prize this year—Roz Hemberger from Forest City and Brooke McClellan from Mt. Pleasant. Roz has been helping with quilts for at least five years, and Brooke for the last two years.

**Youth Award** - For a young person who has shown commendable involvement in such things as helping at the state or county fair, successfully keeping bees for at least one season including wintering, writing, making a float for a parade, speaking, etc.

**Sweepstakes** - For earning the most in premiums for their State Fair entries during the current year. We gave the prize to two groups who spent the summer at P&P Honey learning all about keeping bees and rearing queens—Mark and Katie Miller from Garner, and Rob and Heather Johnston from California.

The people recognized at this event are “regular” bees, just doing what good bees do, and are not seeking prizes. It’s proof of the goodness of our membership that people recognize their peers for work well done in service to pollinators.

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The following article appeared in the journal of the American Honey Producers Association

**Bees Declared To Be The Most Important Living Being On Earth**

The bees have been declared the most important living beings on this planet, the Earthwatch Institute concluded in the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society of London. However, according to wildlife experts and scientists, the bees have joined the endangered species long list.

The recent studies show a dramatic decline of the bees' number as almost 90 percent of the bee population has disappeared in the last few years. The uncontrolled use of pesticides, deforestation or lack of flowers are the main reasons for their extinction.

However, why would such a little being be named the most important creature on Earth? Well, the answer is actually more simple than you ever thought. Seventy percent of the world’s agriculture depends exclusively on bees. Needless to mention the pollination is the bees’ job, although the plants would not be able to reproduce, therefore the fauna would have been gone in a very short time. More than that, a study conducted by the Apiculture Entrepreneurship Center of the Universidad Mayor (CeapiMayor) and the Apiculture Corporation of Chile (Cach) with the support of the Foundation for Agrarian Innovation (FIA) concluded that the bees are the only living being who does not carry any type of pathogen.

After all, Albert Einstein’s say about bees has never been truer. "If the bees disappear, humans would have 4 years to live," the famous physicist said.

Since the bees’ importance is crucial in our planet’s ecosystems and they’ve also been declared an endangered species, we really need to be as careful as possible on the matter. And we need to act quickly as we still have some solutions.

Therefore, in order to protect these hard-working creatures, some activists believe that we should immediately prohibit the use of pesticides, promote completely natural agricultural alternatives and we should carefully monitor their health and welfare.

Lately, people started to realize the importance of the bees and many animal rights groups are trying their best for the conservation of the species. Many celebrities have also joined the cause. And maybe the most wonderful example is Morgan Freeman. Recently the Hollywood star transformed his huge 124-acres land in Mississippi, into a bee sanctuary, in order to protect the species.

"There is a concerted effort for bringing bees back onto the planet... We do not realize that they are the foundation, I think, of the growth of the planet, the vegetation," Morgan Freeman said in an interview.
Riparian Buffers Can Make Good Pollinator Habitat

This edge-of-field practice offers benefits for the soil, water and for pollinators

PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 24, 2019 in Morning Ag Clips

AMES, Iowa — Farmers and landowners who want to increase pollinator habitat while also improving water quality should consider the benefits of saturated riparian buffers enhanced with native wildflowers.

Establishing pollinator habitat within riparian zones, where the agricultural value is lower and where the conservation and wildlife benefits are likely high, can be a win-win.

“Landowners looking for the combined benefits of native habitat and water quality can capture both by establishing pollinator-friendly species on top of saturated buffers,” said Dana Schweitzer, program coordinator with the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium at Iowa State University.

As part of a four-year field demonstration, Schweitzer, Tom Isenhart, professor of natural resource ecology and management at Iowa State, and Steve Bradbury, professor of entomology at Iowa State, co-authored a new publication that helps landowners identify the best sites for buffers, the steps to establish a buffer with pollinator habitat and the programs available to help with funding and technical information.

“Establishing and Managing Pollinator Habitat on Saturated Riparian Buffers” is a four-page publication available on the ISU Extension Store.

Seeding a new or existing buffer with native perennials takes planning, and Schweitzer said landowners should plan at least a year ahead of putting native seed in the soil. Some areas, such as those that have been in a corn-soybean rotation for several years, typically have less weed pressure and are easier to transition. Other areas, including those with cool-season grasses, require more upfront weed management prior to planting a native seed mix.

The publication also outlines the anticipated costs for establishing pollinator habitat over a buffer by comparing different types of site locations, seed and labor costs.

Schweitzer said plots are usually fairly small, ranging from 1-3 acres and require some maintenance every three to five years to sustain a diverse native plant community.

The publication provides multiple resources, including ISU Extension and Outreach’s Questions and Answers about Saturated Buffers for the Midwest, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies fact sheet.

County-level resources are also available on ISU Extension and Outreach’s Wildlife Habitat Programs and Consultation website.

— Dana Schweitzer, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Temperature Guidelines for working honey bee colonies:

Below 30 F: Open the hive only in emergency, such as to feed or remove chemicals. If feeding is necessary below 30 F, use dry sugar or candy so feed won’t freeze.

Below 40 F: Open the hive only in emergency, such as to feed or remove chemicals.

Because bees cannot get far from the warmth of the cluster, feed must be placed directly above the cluster.

Below 50 F: The bees are loosely clustered. The hive can be opened but brood combs should not be removed. Remove side combs to look at brood combs, but replace quickly to avoid chilling the brood.

55 F: bees begin to fly at 55 F and will collect nectar and pollen if available. Hives can be opened, but care must be taken to avoid chilling the brood.

60 F: Complete hive inspection can be made, but brood combs should be returned to the hive quickly.

70 F: This is warm enough to completely disassemble the hive and frames for a thorough inspection.
Oriental

Join us in standardizing tests to ensure your honey is real.

Sujit Kamath

Adulterated honey is lining your supermarket shelves and killing the beekeeping industry. We need to standardize honey validity with foolproof tests at every port of entry. Other countries are doing it - now it's our turn.

Don't believe it? From 2007 to 2013 alone, countries in the Oriental hemisphere - namely China - have experienced an explosion of 196% in their honey exports, yet their hive count has only increased by 13%. This dumping of adulterated honey into the global marketplace is depressing the price of honey and putting honest beekeepers out of business. Not only is China diluting honey with cheap sugar syrups, they're also filling their jars with illegal antibiotics and heavy metals such as lead.

To make matters worse, China is rebranding their adulterated honey and using other countries as a 'jump-off' point to avoid detection. Same adulterated honey, different 'country of origin'. Right now, over half the honey on your supermarket shelves is adulterated.

If that wasn't enough, this illegal practice is causing the price of honey to plummet and is putting beekeepers out of business. This in turn reduces the amount of pollinators left in the world. Did you know that bees pollinate 30% of the food you eat? Almonds, blueberries, strawberries, apples, broccoli, cucumbers - just to name a few. They're also the key pollinators of alfalfa and clover, the primary feeds used in the cattle industry. If beekeepers continue to go belly up due to the influx of cheap, adulterated honey, it's only a matter of time before the price of fruits, vegetables, dairy, and cattle reach never before seen heights.

It's time to enact policies that protect the American people. Today, we have the technology to detect adulterated honey in all its forms. The problem is, we barely test the honey we import (24 containers out of thousands annually, according to the FDA). We need to be testing ALL honey at every port of entry.

Join us in protecting our honey, our beekeepers, and our very food supply by signing this petition to standardize honey testing at every port of entry.

Thank you!
Healthy Bees, LLC - Makers of all-natural nutrition for honey bees.

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RE-QUEENED!!

Abigail Kelly is the daughter of Sean and Susan Kelly and lives in Des Moines, Iowa. She is blessed with nine siblings. Abigail became interested in beekeeping when Mike and Julie Sander placed two hives on her family's property in 2016 and allowed Abigail and her siblings to inspect the hives with them. She received the IHPA Youth Scholarship in 2018. Abigail continues to keep bees and is constantly learning from them. She has started a small business with her sisters built on honey and other products of the hive. Abigail especially enjoys making products out of beeswax. Abigail was the 2019 Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Honey Queen. Outside of beekeeping, Abigail is involved in her church, 4-H, and home school sports. Abigail will be graduating from high school in May 2020. She plans on attending a college in the Des Moines metro area in the fall of 2020 to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. (Submitted by her Mom)

Hello! My name is Abigail Kelly and I am your 2020 Iowa Honey Queen.

This past year I represented the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) as the Central Iowa Honey Queen. As the CIBA Honey Queen, I gave 24 presentations and attended 14 additional events. I am looking forward to giving presentations and attending events this year throughout all of Iowa as Iowa Honey Queen. If you would like me to come to your local school, library, nursing home, beekeeping club, farmer's market, county fair, or other event, please contact Connie Bronnenburg, the IHPA Queen Chair, via phone at (515)-480-6076 or via email at cbronny823@aol.com or myself via my family's home phone (515)-330-2624 or my email at DasselAcre@gmail.com.

Another goal I have for this year is to work with the club queens. One of the ways I would like to work with the queens is by hosting queen days. Stay tuned to the Iowa Honey Queen Program Facebook page to keep up with my activities.

Abigail Kelly, 2020 Iowa Honey Queen

On the left: Abigail Kelley, reigning queen;

Center: Carly Raye Vannoy, 2017 Iowa Honey Queen;

On the right: Brooklyn Pardall, 2019 Iowa Honey Queen.
One of the speakers at the 2019 Annual Meeting was Kirsten Traynor. You may recognize that name from reading various beekeeping journals. Below is a way you can help her promote pollinators. She writes this to Keri Kenoyer.

Bees are in trouble. Not just honeybees, but all of our bees. We’re losing our pollinators at an alarming rate. In the last three decades we’ve lost more than 70% of our insect biomass. If we work together, we can help mitigate the crises our pollinators face.

Thank you for previously having me speak at your beekeeping club. As you know, I was the former editor of American Bee Journal and Bee World, two positions I absolutely adored. Helping to build a bridge between science and practice is important to me. For this reason, I am launching a new magazine 2 Million Blossoms: protecting our pollinators. Why launch a new magazine? Because there is a growing and troubling divide between beekeepers and native bee enthusiasts. We have many of the same goals—keeping pollinators healthy and improving forage for all. Also, many people want to help “save the bees” and the best way to harness that energy is encouraging them to plant food for bees.

2 Million Blossoms gathers the best writing, science, and new developments in a single place. Our inaugural issue in January 2020 includes articles by Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Dave Goulson, Rusty Burlew, and Kim Flottum. We’re currently running a Kickstarter campaign and could use your help in spreading the word. Please share this email with your bee or gardening club. We’re trying to reach as many pollinator lovers, beekeepers, bee enthusiasts, and gardeners as possible. Check out our Kickstarter campaign for more details: https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2mblossoms/2-million-blossoms-protecting-our-pollinators?ref=53gth0

Thank you so much for your help. Sharing is caring and we really appreciate you circulating our campaign or website 2millionblossoms.com via email or on social media.

Warmest wishes for a holiday season,
Kirsten
Board Meeting Coming.
(All IHPA members are invited to join the board meeting)
Who: IHPA Board Members & other great people!
What: January Board Meeting
When: Saturday January 25th, 2020 Room will be opened at 9:30 AM, meeting starts at 10:00 AM sharp, until 5:00 PM.
Where: Ames Public Library 515 Douglas Ave, Ames IA 50010 in the Rotary Room
Why: Normal January Meeting, getting to know the new Board members, long agenda to go through for the new year.

We can bring in food, just need to clean up. It's a bigger room so should accommodate anyone that wants to come.
Thank you, see you all there. This will also be posted on the website calendar.

Eric Kenoyer, Webmaster

MEMBERSHIP DUES
IHPA membership year runs from January 1st and ends on December 31st. Still only $20 for the first Beekeeper and $5 for each additional Beekeeper in the house. Only one Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per membership address. By sending one Buzz Newsletter to one address, we reduce the cost of the Buzz. Which in turn provides more funds for more scholarships, more programs, etc. If you would rather read the Buzz online, please indicate that when you renew your membership. We have the ability to take debit and credit cards now.

It is time to prepare a new 2020 Membership Directory (the last one was printed in 2018). Please check your information for accuracy so we can have an accurate directory in 2020.

IHPA is a 501(c)5 organization. This means that your membership could be tax deductible, as your magazine subscriptions and conferences could be as well. Consult your tax professional for more information.

Also, if you donated bees, products, services or items for the auctions, a letter of donation can be provided for these as well.

If you would like a letter of donation, please let Rhonda Heston know. She can be reached at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com or 515-724-2124 (call or text).
Address: 53735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049.
Thanks,
Rhonda

When the slogan on the merchandise began to gather some age, the IHPA board decided it was time to ask members to come up with a new design. We put the word out in the Buzz, and we got a nice assortment of contributions. We hung them all on the wall in the registration area at the Annual Meeting and the design with the most support is displayed on the front cover and on this page.
Here's a note from Laura and Dan Juffer:

My husband and I worked on this together. He is a Graphic Designer by trade turned Sales Manager. I am a Pet Groomer and going on my second year of beekeeping with an awesome mentor, Eric Kenoyer. Dan and my goal was to find a slogan and design that would not only appeal to members of the association but also to the general public for merchandise sales. The image in the design depicts how life is better because of our wonderful and fascinating bees and all they do. Laura Juffer

Also, we will be taking bids after the first of the year for the actual printing/production of the merchandise. If you are interested in being included in the bid process, please let Rhonda know. We would like to have new merchandise available for Summer Field Day 2020.
Notes from the BeeYard, by Phil Ebert

This October has not been much better than last year. Rainy and cool has been the order of the day. Orchards that rely on weekend sales have had a hard time. Most of our bees look decent. The last round of fall splits is on the weak side. We knew it was late when made them (mid-August) but I thought, “Last October was pretty crappy. Maybe this year will be better.” It didn’t pan out. The splits we made at the beginning of August are fine. We will still send the weak splits west, so we have some extra queens.

We are bringing the bees into holding yards now so that we can load them on semis. The first load went out November 7. Going to California has changed a lot of things. Some of our yards are hard to get into. It didn’t matter much when the bees stayed there all year. Now, we have to get in there with a truck and trailer to pick them up. We are going to have to find some yards with better access. We don’t have to get the colonies as heavy as we used to since we will be feeding them in California in January. For keeping bees in Iowa, I want to be done feeding by Thanksgiving. We have a one-gallon division board feeder in every box. We used to have one feeder per colony but in the spring when we were making up boxes, we had to move the feeders around. One feeder means more trips thru the yards to give feed. With a feeder already in every box, it is one less piece to mess with plus we can feed two gallons on every trip. Most years we would feed 5 or 6 gallons of syrup to every colony. 30 years ago, we hardly ever fed but the fall flow in our area has mostly disappeared. Bear in mind that a colony of bees will need around 60# of food to make it to spring. This can be a function of the amount of brood rearing going on. More brood means higher food consumption. I have seen years with light winters when brood rearing was well underway in late January. Other years, it has not started in earnest until early to mid-April.

I don’t like feeding bees in the dead of winter. I want them clustered up and kicked back. Get that feeding done in the fall. The bees can take care of themselves if you provide adequate stores and HAVE YOUR MITE LOAD UNDER CONTROL. Sometimes there are a few colonies that require feed at the end of February. If it is still cold, I don’t like to use syrup unless the colony is huge. We have some rims that are 1 ½” thick. We put those on and the pour 5-10# of sugar on a piece of newspaper. We have about 150 of the rims. It has always been enough. Winter patties are fine, but they are a little pricey for feeding a large number of colonies.

If your equipment is tight, I don’t think wrapping colonies has much to do with survival. Our boxes are rather porous, so the wraps were important to keep the wind and the mice out of the colonies. The real value of the wraps is in the spring. They hold the heat in. That helps the cluster loosen up. Even if you do not wrap, it is EXTREMELY important to have a piece of insulation under the lid. We use ¾” R-Board. The cluster produces heat. Without insulation, condensation will occur on the underside of the inner cover. It will drip down on the bees. That is a bad deal. You also need some kind of upper entrance. We had notches cut in the inner covers. Some people drill auger holes in the top box.

There is no one true way to keep bees but you have to control mites and ensure the bees have adequate stores. In spite of your best efforts, some of those big good-looking colonies are going to die anyway. There are multiple stress factors at work on the bees but if you control mites and provide adequate feed, you have a good chance of success. I still have people tell me that they do not have mite issues. Don’t believe it. Everyone has mite issues. If you elect not to use chemical treatments, that’s fine, but you still need a way to control your mite load. If you don’t know how to take an ether roll or alcohol wash, you need to learn. By the time you see the mites on the bees, it is too late.

Turkey day will be history by the time you read this. I hope is was a good one for everybody!!

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My name is Andy Ausdemore, and I am a first year beekeeper. I have many fond memories of bees and other pollinators as a child. I grew up in a very environmentally conscious family. We always had bird feeders, pollinator gardens, and lots of animal friendly wild habitat on our acreage just outside of Council Bluffs. My parents always encouraged us to get outside and explore nature. Bees were always a welcome sight at our bird baths and flower gardens.

I began my bee keeping hobby just this past May. I have wanted to keep bees for as long as I can remember. In the fall of 2018 when I found and purchased a small acreage just outside of Galena, Illinois, I finally had the chance to make my dream a reality. After taking a 6 week beekeeping class at our local community college in Dubuque, I purchased two hives on Mother’s Day.

My first year’s harvest went well. One hive exceeded my expectations and gave me 32 pounds of honey. My weaker hive struggled all summer and barely hung on by a thread. Many thanks to my bee keeping mentor Paulette Lynn for giving me a Nuc with a new healthy queen. Next spring I am planning my first attempt at splitting hives. My goal is to expand to four hives for 2020.

I have met some amazing and helpful people along the way. Many thanks to the members of the Swiss Valley Bee Club for patiently answering my list of questions each month. I highly encourage anyone interested in beekeeping to join a local club and get involved in the pollinator community.

Submitted by Tom Hart,
IHPA District 2 Director

December Beek of the Month.

The Buzz Newsletter Article/Ad Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rihpa@gmail.com or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010. Complimentary (small) ads run for two months. Paid (larger) ads payment handled by Treasurer Rhonda Heston. 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.

Beekeeper of the Month

The Beekeeper of the Month goes to all the beekeepers that took the time, effort and money to come to the IHBA fall conference, November 8-9. This was another great conference with loads of information on various topics that we as beekeepers face every day.

I am somewhat disappointed in not seeing many beeks, that have posted on Facebook, called with questions and have struggled in their beekeeping endeavor at the conference. Club meetings, Summer Field Days, Fall Conference, Winter Seminars, taking beekeeping classes again are all great ways to LEARN more and become BETTER Beekeepers.

Veils off to all who worked and volunteered their time to make the Conference such a great event. Thanks also to the great speakers and all the wonderful vendors. Congratulations to our new IHBA State Honey Queen, Abigail Kelly. Congratulations also to the new IHBA Board who will guide us into 2020.

Looking forward to live bees come April.

Doyle Kincy
District 4 Director IHPA
Getting to know your director,  
District 5:  
As of November 8th, 2019 I (Jason Foley) became the new director for district 5. For many years I have been a supporter of IHAP: one of the many volunteers working in the background on the various projects and yearly events IHAP toils away at. For the last six years I have wanted to play a more active role in IHAP, but I also didn’t want to push any current member out of their spot. Good people are hard to find, and Eric Kenoyer (former district 5 director), leaves very big shoes for me to fill! When Eric came to me and said he was stepping down, I knew this was the year for me to run!  

For those of you who do not know me, I am the owner of Foley’s Russian Bees. A couple years ago I married a cute little old-world broom maker/soap maker, and together we merged our lives and businesses under the name of Honey Hollow Apiary and Gardens LLC. We bought 11 acres between the cities of Des Moines and Indianola (near Summerset Winery), and began construction on our home, store, and honey house. A lot of the work we have been doing ourselves. You can imagine that for every project you finish, you end up creating two more on your honey-do list... Along with that I still maintain 100 to 200 colonies at any given time of the year, and operate 350 mating nucs. I also work part-time in construction. The construction is more of a fun hobby for me, as crazy as that might sound. I just love running construction equipment and building something that will last for years to come. So all-in-all I stay pretty busy, but yet have great flexibility in setting my own schedule for everything. I grew up in small town Dakota City, Iowa and moved to Des Moines in ’97 to follow an education in the arts at Grand View College. Unfortunately, shortly after graduation and beginning my art career as the director of graphic arts with the DNR Air Quality division, 9/11 happened. The state pulled funds from basically every program they had, and I was tossed into a very big pool of unemployed. I ended up working for an investment and financial firm. I would still be there today if it wasn’t for starting the hobby of beekeeping. I say “hobby” because at the time that was my only intention. I started off with a single nuc that I acquired from Manley Bigalk. That nuc turned into several hives, then 15 hives, and so on. I became a member of the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa (FBI) and with prompting by members who wanted my bees, I became self-taught in the craft of queen rearing. It wasn’t long after that I became super nerdy with bees and landed a grant through NCR-SARE that allowed me to travel to the University of Florida where I studied artificial insemination of queens under Susan Cobey and began my 5-year process of becoming a certified master beekeeper. Somewhere along the way the “hobby” got out of hand and I reached a turning point where I either needed to stop growing or take the leap and go full-time with beekeeping. Well, I wouldn’t be writing this now if I hadn’t taken that leap.  

Even in my early days of beekeeping I have been tutoring and helping other beekeepers with what I know. Hopefully those first couple of years I didn’t give out any bad advice, but I know I was already posting on social media pages and putting my 2-cents on things when I was still at a novice level. As many of us know, you never stop learning and being surprised by these fuzzy little balls of pollinating wonder. Just when you think you have them all figured out, you’ll encounter a hive that defies all logic and leaves you scratching your head and wondering why they are doing this new thing. On a personal note, I’m always astonished with myself after giving a talk or teaching a class on something. My whole life I have been absolutely terrified of public speaking, but somewhere along the way the nerdy side of me took over and once I get started talking, the information and interactions with my audience seem to suspend those feelings. I still fumble with the first few words out of my mouth as I stand in front of a crowd, but then it all melts away. So don’t be surprised if you ask me to one of your club meetings, or to give a talk on something if I look a little pale as I walk up in front of your group. If I can help even one person, the awkwardness is well worth it to me. I currently teach courses at various colleges across Iowa as the Midwest Master Beekeeper representative, and often times will be one of the instructors during the winter Beginner Beekeeping Classes hosted by the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa. While district 5 is nearly one quarter of the state in size (encompassing 27 counties), I do plan on making visits to the different bee clubs across it when possible. So don’t be afraid to reach out to me. A new club has started up in Corning, IA (Southern Iowa Beehivers), and I look forward to helping them in these early stages as they figure out how they want to grow their membership and structure their group. So if you are reading this, Mindy Butcher, hopefully you won’t mind if I stop in from time to time.  

Hopefully this has given readers an idea of who I am. I look forward to serving my district and striving to be as phenomenal of a director as Eric Kenoyer has been to you all.  

Thank you,  
Jason Foley  
Jason@RussianBee.com  
515-991-4666
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Iowa Honey Producers Association
Board of Directors
RE: 2019 Audit Summary

Dear Board of Directors:
The Iowa Honey Producer Association Audit Committee met this date to review the organization financial records. Program expenditure and income deposits were examined and found to be in order. Quick book spread sheets were also reviewed and reflected on hand cash balances of $26,684, certificates of deposits valued at $21,000 and combined assets of $50,542.47.

Recommendations for improvements include greater use of the Quick book functions for annual budgeting and point in time financial reports to the board of directors. The second committee recommendation is to adopt cash security practices that include dual observers for tabulating cash deposits following program events which generate significant cash transactions.

The committee wishes to acknowledge their appreciation to Rhonda Heston for organizing and presenting the records utilized for this audit. Should you have questions related to this review, please feel free to direct your inquiries to the Audit Committee.
The 2019 Audit Committee:  
Angela Croonquist, Lisa Montgomery, Tom Hart

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig came to our Annual Meeting and addressed us, just before leaving for a trip to Japan. It was an honor to host him for a little while. He acknowledged that pollination was a key agricultural concern in our state, and he agreed that we all need to work together to provide a more secure future for pollinators. He soundly complimented our state apiarist, Andy Joseph, and agreed that we should have at least two more of him... In the last issue of the Buzz, you read about Jamie Beyer’s chat with him in the fall--it’s a great privilege to know that our Secretary has the backs of our pollinators. Thank you, Jamie, for setting up that chance for us all to hear from him.

Wanted. A way to speed up getting meats out of black walnuts. Who has a faster way to get the nuts out of the shell? Please call Don Schmidt at 209-329-7124.

Farewell to the Girls--bound for warmer weather and hoping to come back to Iowa in the spring.
Contest Winners—A big Shout Out to all the contestants who took the time to enter the various categories at our contests. It’s a great addition to the Conference!

Painted Hive Body

Youth:
1st place- Britta Mc Collum
2nd place- Lizzy Danielson

Adult:
1st place- Amy Synarong
2nd place- Dianne Rinehart

Photos
Youth:
Bee on a Flower- 1st place – Olivia Kelly
General Beekeeping- 1st place- Bethany Kelly

Adult:
Bee on a Flower- 1st place- Tina Meyer
2nd place- Amy Synarong
3rd place- Melissa Fiesler

General Beekeeping- 1st place- Abigail Kelly
2nd place- Tina Meyer
3rd place- Amy Synarong

Extracting Honey- 1st place- Missy Fiesler
2nd place- Tina Meyer

Black Label
1st place- #8 Steve Wearmouth
2nd place- #4 Dave Korver
3rd place- #6 James Miller

Mead
1st place- Andy Hemken

Cooking with Honey

Adult
Muffins/Cupcakes/Brownies
1st Orange Cardamom Muffins – Amy Synarong
2nd Pumpkin Muffins w/ Honey Cream Cheese Frosting - Keri Kenoyer
3rd Carrot Mini Muffins – Marlene Mogle

Cookies/Bars
1st Chocolate No Bake Cookies – Karla Alford
2nd Peanut Butter Cookies – Julie Swet
3rd Granola Bars – Keri Kenoyer

Snacks/Appetizers
1st No Bake Honey Cheesecake – Julie Swet
2nd Honey Glazed Chex Mix – Abigail Kelly

Breads
1st Honey Cinnamon Zucchini Bread – Julie Swet

Jams/Sauces/Jellies/Butters
1st Spiced Honey Butter – Karla Alford

Youth
Cookies/Bars
1st Honey Lavender Shortbread – Britta Mc Collum

Here are some of the winning recipes.

Spiced Honey Apple Buns
10 c. Apple puree
2 c. Apple cider
1 c. Honey
2 t. Cinnamon
1 t. Ginger
½ t. Cardamom
½ t. Ground clove
½ t. Ground nutmeg
Mix all ingredients together in a crock pot. Cook on low for 8 hours. Ladle hot butter into clean jars and process in boiling water for 10 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before removing and letting jars cool.

Honey Cinnamon Zucchini Bread
2 Eggs
2/3 c. Olive oil
¾ c. Honey
2 t. Vanilla
2 c. Shredded zucchini
2 c. Flour
1 t. Salt
1 t. Soda
1 t. Baking powder
11/2 t. Cinnamon
Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease loaf pan. Mix eggs, oil, honey, vanilla and shredded zucchini. In another bowl mix flour, salt, soda, baking powder and cinnamon. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, mix until well combined. Pour into loaf pan. Bake 45-50 minutes. Let cool before serving.

Chocolate No Bake Cookies
3 c. Quick cooking oats
¾ c. Honey
2/3 c. Peanut Butter
½ c. Coconut oil
1/3 c. Unsweetened cocoa powder
11/2 tsp. Vanilla
¼ t. Salt
Heat honey, peanut butter, and coconut oil over medium heat until everything blends together smoothly. Stir in rest of ingredients until well incorporated. Drop tablespoon sizes dough balls onto parchment paper. Place in freezer for 15 minutes

No Bake Honey Cheesecake with Honey Thyme Drizzle
Crust:
2 c. Cookies or graham crackers
¼ c. Melted butter

Filling:
16 oz. Cream cheese (room temp)
½ c. Honey
11/2 c. Sour cream
1t. Lemon juice

Drizzle:
1/3 c. Honey
1t. Lemon juice
½ t. Thyme
Crush cookies or graham crackers and mix with melted butter. Press crust mixture in to the bottom of your dish(es). In a separate bowl, mix cream cheese, honey, lemon juice and sour cream until smooth with electric mixer. Divide mixture among your dishes. Chill in fridge for at least 4 hours. Warm honey slightly and add the thyme, stir until well combined. Cool honey and thyme mixture before you drizzle over cheesecake.
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Iowa Honey Producers Association
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Chariton, IA 50049

2018/109 IHPA Leaders:
Pres: Roy Kraft
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com

V-PRES: Kris Silvers
2088 310th Ave
Woodburn, IA 50275
Ph: (515) 418-0996
Kris_kn.Silvers@gmail.com

Secretary: Heidi Love
18115 F Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
Ph: (515) 729-1761
bhl05@aol.com

Treasurer: Rhonda Heston
52735 187th Ave
Chariton, IA 50049
Ph: (515) 724-2124
IHPATreasurer@aol.com

HISTORIAN:
Carole Vannoy
3205 Hillsdale Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
Ph: (641) 780-8947
iowabeekeepinghistory@gmail.com

Past Pres: Eve Vanden Broek
134 Holland Dr.
Pella, IA 50219
Ph: (515) 491-6760
mrsthee@iowatelecom.net

Directors:
District 1: Chris Jackson
524 South 2nd Ave.
Danville, IA 52623
Ph: (319) 850-6559
chrisjackson1977@gmail.com

District 2: Tom Hart
1107 12th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
Ph: (319) 213-6807
cedarvalleyapiaries@gmail.com

District 3: Ed St John
1642 Oak View Dr. NE
Solon, IA 52233
Ph: (319) 491-4343
esj178@gmail.com

District 4: Doyle Kincy
7304 Monroe Ct
Urbandale, IA 50322
Ph: (515) 710-4752
dwkincy@msn.com

District 5: Jason Foley
13778 Summerset Rd.
Indianola, IA 50125
Ph: (515) 991-4666
jason@russianbee.com

District 6: Jim Kraninger
2229 195th Ave
Milford, IA 51351
Ph: (712) 330-6329
boijbeekeeper@gmail.com

State Apiarist: Andrew Joseph
Phone: (515) 721-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

IDALS website: www.agriculture.state.ia.us
Amy Toth, Assistant Professor Iowa State University Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology
amytoth@iastate.edu
www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth_lab/Home.html
Mary Harris
maharris@iastate.edu
National Honey Board: www.honey.com
American Honey Producers Association: www.ahpanet.com
American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABFnet.org

IHPA Queen Program:
Connie Bronnenberg
14405 Hull Ave
Perry, IA 50220-6343
Ph: (515) 480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Youth Scholarship:
Ted Reeves
17400 Illinois St.
Achworth, IA 50001
Ph: (515) 720-7617
Beekeeper@reevestkd.com

The Buzz Newsletter:
Ron Rynders
890 13th Ave SE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
Ph: (712) 449-5010
rrhpa@gmail.com

Bee Emergency Program Information:
Roy Kraft
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com