The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month’s newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only $10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

August 9th-19th—Iowa State Fair
September 9th—IHPA Board Meeting, 2pm.
November 15th—IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm.
November 16-17th—IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

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Honey Styx
I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx, so these are Iowa honey. Good flavored light honey.
$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or $160
$0.10 each for 500-1999
$0.12 each for less than 500
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For Sale:
Heavy-duty plastic pallets for sale. Several varieties are available, including stackable and nestable pallets.
Resistant to insects, bacteria, and fungi. Perfect for using under hives. Some have slight damage. All are in used condition. $15.00 each.
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FOR SALE: Approx 170 Shallow-5 3/4, and 20 Medium-6 5/8”-Honey Supers located in Vinton, IA.
All have 9 Frames of drawn comb. They are stored in my garage and have moth crystals on them. There is no moth damage. I would like to sell them to a honey producer.
I can be reached by phone at 319-472-3810
or by
E-Mail -- m.duncan@q.com

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E-Mail -- m.duncan@q.com

For Sale: Freeze dried Fruit and Jalapeno pepper. Used in making honey cremes.
Apricot powder in 5 lb bags.
Blueberry powder in 7.5 lb bags
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Jalapeno pepper 1/8” in 1 lb bags (6 cups)
Raspberry powder in 5.5 lb bags
Ann Garber at
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Cell phone 641-870-2119

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For Sale: pamphlet on successful management available:
Ten Pages $12 including postage.
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TELE> 515 292 3243

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Greetings from the President

It has only been a few weeks since I did my last message so hopefully we get caught up and closer to the normal monthly schedule. I’m writing this in Pinedale Wyoming, which is near Jackson Hole. We are going to drive up through the Teton Mountains through Yellowstone Park, then up to Bozeman, Montana. My daughter Chelsa just moved there. It was hard to take the time off from all that is going on right now. We have about a 100 barrels of honey extracted so far and when I left July 22 the bees were still on a slow honey flow. I had run out of honey supers so we had to get busy extracting and putting the empty backs out. The bees just love the freshly extracted comb and many of the empty combs are quickly becoming full. It looks like this will easily be the best year of honey production since 1988.

I have a hard time explaining why the extremely hot, dry weather is so good for production. I think each load of nectar they bring in is so much richer and has less moisture so their foraging trips are more efficient. They need to spend less energy drying the nectar and they also spend less energy maintaining brood nest temperatures of 95 degrees. High moisture honey shouldn’t be a problem this year because even the uncapped honey seems to be under 18% water. The honey I have extracted has been from 17-17.5%. I have been seeing the spray planes out in both corn and beans. I got a call from the coop the other day because they were spraying for spider mites in the beans. They no longer are required to contact beekeepers, but must spray early or late in the day. He was concerned about the hot weather affecting when the bees would be foraging and I let him know that late in the day is much better, because the plants exposed to the heat are likely to shut down and blossoms will close up. For whatever the reason I have noticed the foraging activity drops off on those extremely hot days. I was glad to hear that he was concerned with the timing of the pesticide application and was concerned with the effect on honeybees. He mentioned that the spider mites were easy to knock down and the weak mixture that they use has almost no residual. He said that aphids can’t handle the heat and shouldn’t be a problem. If the drought continues the farmers won’t waste time spraying the failed crops. There are some interesting things going on involving the Iowa State Fair as I write this, but by the time you are reading this they will most likely be in the past. Hopefully many of you will have attended, participated, and pitched in, so I will write more about that in the next issue.

Have fun, work hard,
Curt Bronnenberg

Bees dying from agricultural chemical: EPA won’t act

Last month, for the second time, the EPA refused to intervene to stop the use of the pesticide clothianidin, which scientists believe is at least partially to blame for the alarming rise in bee colony collapse. The sudden bee die-off has claimed about 30% of the U.S. honey bee population each year since 2006. The EPA has no plans to review clothianidin again until 2018. By then it may be too late.

One of three bites of food you eat is reliant on honey bee pollination

Senator Gillibrand from New York, a heavily agricultural state that depends on the bees, is demanding that the EPA step up its formal review process of the neonicotinoids— which includes clothianidin — as a major causal factor.

The pesticide, which is used to treat seeds like corn and canola, expresses itself through the plants’ pollen and nectar— the honey bees favorite sources of food. Neonicotinoid pesticides are relatively new, and their use coincides with the rise of colony collapse disorder.

Greetings, Iowa Beekeepers!

The end of June and July have been keeping me very busy. Right before Greg and I’s week State 4-H Conference in Ames as State Council Facilitators, I attended my first farmer’s market in Ames. Mom and I had a great time with Dick & Letha DeMoss, speaking with people about honey, and meeting the other vendors. This farmer’s market had many children frequenters, so we decided on our next trip that we would bring the honeycomb bags game and bee photo board that the Swett Family had created.

Immediately following the State 4-H Conference, Dad and I jumped on a plane to Texas for my Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference in San Antonio. I was delighted to have another opportunity to give my speech about honeybees, further educating the public – this time in Texas! When I got home from Texas, I attended two bee events in the same week.

The first event occurred in Grinnell and was my second experience of a farmer’s market. We ventured to beautiful downtown Grinnell where we were surprised to see five different honey vendors! Mom and I spent the afternoon with Delmar and Fern Nelson, also having the opportunity to visit with Margaret Hala and Eli Kalke, who have booths there as well. The setting was beautiful and we had a great day, especially with the afternoon heat!

The next event was held in Centerville where I was invited by owner Frank Reznicek to help promote the Owl Pharmacy’s Customer Appreciation Day. I was able to set up a display right inside the door and greeted people with a honey stick as they visited the store. I was also extremely flattered to be interviewed by the Daily Iowegian, where I was featured in the Farm spread. Mom and I really enjoyed our day, appreciating the hospitality and hearing beekeeping stories. Our favorite story was about the antics one family took to deter a swarm from staying in their lilac bush. They did everything from banging pots and pans to yelling to covering them with a sheet!

A week later Mom and I found our-
The little girls, especially, were fascinated by my crown and pins, asking me what it was like to be a queen.

In between my 4-H events and the upcoming fair, I am looking forward to making another trip to both the Ames and Grinnell Farmer’s Markets. I can’t believe that it’s almost time for the Iowa State Fair! This summer is going crazy fast between being gone for 4-H and FBLA, bee events, preparing my livestock and projects for the fair, and attending other county fairs to help as State Council members!

Please think of me when preparing events; it would be my pleasure to come and “bee” helpful in any way possible! Again, please do not hesitate to contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg to set something up.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Iowa State Fair!

**Renae Michelle Beard**  
2012 Iowa Honey Queen

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### REESE PEANUT BUTTER DESSERT

Printed from COOKS.COM

2 c. graham cracker crumbs  
1/2 c. butter  
1/4 c. powdered sugar  
2 c. peanut butter  
1/2 c. butter  
1/4 c. powdered sugar  
3/8 c. honey

Mix cracker crumbs, 1/2 cup butter and 1/4 cup powdered sugar and press in pan and cool. Use small cookie sheet or 10”x12” pan.

Mix peanut butter, 1/2 cup butter, 1/4 cup powdered sugar and honey. Add small amount of oil to make easy to spread over crust. Cover pan 1/2” thick.

Let set until firm then cover with 2 cans chocolate pudding and serve.
I completely spaced off The Beeyard Report. It is very late. I need to knock it out. July always disappears in a heartbeat because we are so busy. Jesse VandeKrol is back to extract honey. I have two other high school boys that I am breaking in. It varies from day to day as to who is available. We have 40 barrels full at this writing.

What a difference a year makes. Last year our first few barrels of honey were 20% moisture content. This year they were 15.8%. I didn't think it was possible to get honey that dry in Iowa. We had to heat the sump in order to pump it. I don't think we have ever had honey drier than 16.5% in the past. Even though the honey is dry it seems to come out of the combs pretty well. 100 degree temps have something to do with that. We got some basswood honey for the first time in several years. The basswood bloom has been rained out the last four years. Pure basswood honey is pretty nasty to my palate. It has an extremely strong mint flavor. It can knock you back when you take the lid off the barrel. This has something else mixed into it. It's very mild and tastes a bit like spearmint gum.

Our first pull was from the Cedar Rapids area on June 25. There was a huge flow over there and Adam was out of boxes. Extracting started out as an evening project. Then we found out the honey was too thick to pump. We turned on the heat in the sump and ordered pizza. By the time we finished eating it was almost 9:00 PM. Extracting continued into the wee hours of the morning. I went to bed but Alex and Adam stayed at it.

I was surprised when I heard the truck pull out of the driveway at 4:00 AM. I found out later they drove to Cedar Rapids, took a nap and then pulled more honey. The VandeKrol boys came out from Lynnville to extract that lot.

On June 28, storms came through Lynnville. We had rain morning and evening (0.70” total). The evening storm took down a number of trees. That made for the ideal weather scenario -- high temp and humidity coupled with very dry weather. Our flow in the Lynnville area started a few days later. We were two weeks later than Adam getting started. As we enter the last days of July, we still have a little honey coming in. I have no idea what the bees are working.

The rain total for July is zero!! The ditch where the horses get water has dried up. There is a little forage left but I am supplementing with hay and hauling water. The corn is starting to fire out but the beans look pretty good yet.

I had an incident a few weeks ago when I got a couple of my fingers in the table saw. Kyle was here when I did it but he can’t drive a manual transmission. I called the neighbor lady and she took me to the emergency room. The doctor sewed me up. I am lucky to still have fingers. The index finger looks like it is going to return to normal but the middle finger is not. Still, I feel lucky!!

The State Fair is near. I hope to see some of you there.

Submitted by Phil Ebert
queen failure at the early part of the season.

There seems to be no good answer to the problem. The only hope IS that beekeepers will make an effort to prevent all those losses of thousands of colonies, thus making queens available when needed. Until all these losses occurred queens were always available when needed.

The Colony Collapse will continue as long as the insecticide produced by the Bayer Co is used. The powder used on the seed becomes contaminated and floats through the air killing all pollinating insects, including the honeybee. My response from the EPA is, they intend to test ALL insecticides again soon to determine which is doing more harm than good. There are insecticides that are less damaging that would do what is needed. In the 1970's it was DDT that was killing our bees. With a few trips to Washington DC a few of us managed to get funds to remember beekeepers for their losses to DDT. We hoped that would never happen again. It was finally banned.

BEEKEEPING AT ITS BEST!

Over the past two and a half years I have coached a few beekeepers through a system that has proven to be a success all the way. Starting from the very introduction of packaged bees right through the two winters plus into the next year. They found the most important part of the procedure was the preparation of colonies for Winter. This is a part of colony management that requires full inspections and manipulations. Most of all is making sure each colony is weighed and brought up to weight with combs of honey. A couple of years of trials will indicate the actual weight each colony needs to survive the winter and have plenty of honey to last until the first blossom produces nectar in the Spring. It's just that simple.

If you prefer to continue as in the past and keep buying bees that is quite up to you. Most beekeepers prefer to have colonies that produce as a way of having a hobby that is self supporting. This is certainly possible. The scale I designed makes this all possible and the initial cost is minimal. Plans for a scale are available. Switch now and get a new start in beekeeping.

Just received word from a beekeeper of 35 years who in recent years has experienced excessive winter losses of colonies.

The past three years, (after accepting some advice) has wintered his colonies with not one colony lost. His change in beekeeping included weighing each hive in the Fall and adjusting combs of brood and honey. He was lucky enough this Spring to get some queens fairly early and made up colonies seven combs of brood strong. Having produced bumper crops early in his beekeeping he is a good judge of production. He is now looking at colonies with an average of 150 pounds and still gaining. Way to go.

THANKS, Iowa Beekeepers for the many cards and beautiful flowers on my 95. You made my day.

— Glen Stanley

Glen L. Stanley, Iowa State Apiarist Emeritus
Ballard Creek
908 N. Highway 69
HUXLEY, Iowa 50124

45 years of successful beekeeping.
It’s a hard, cold world for honeybees

Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Bluefield, WV
By Mannix Porterfield
CNHI

CHARLESTON — Vanishing pastures, poor genetics and dangerous pesticides are combining to hurt honeybees and other critical pollinators, a bee-keeping expert told a West Virginia legislative panel Monday.

And one of the major impediments toward recovery has been the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, Gabe Blatt told the Agriculture and Agri-business Committee.

Beekeepers have until Sept. 25 to provide the EPA with comments in hopes of reversing its decision to allow their usage, he said.

The president of the Cabell-Wayne Beekeepers Association said the harmful substance ascends into the tassels of corn, where bees gather pollen.

“It was put on the market and let by the EPA, without proper documentation,” he told the panel. “We have asked them to pull it.”

Blatt said problems also have arisen as commercial breeders simply have used too few drones to mate with queen bees and the gene pool has been weakened.

“Most of the queen rearing is done in the South and West by major producers that produce tens of thousands of queens. Guess what? They’re very closely related. Our gene pool is again shrinking.”

Put simply, it means rather than mating with 20 drones to provide a healthier gene pool, the number is cut to 10, he said.

Bees are finding food supplies increasingly hard to come by, given the diminished pasture land that now is well-manicured grasses.

“There’s no food there for the bees or any of the pollinators,” he said. “They’re not eating correctly.”

Blatt said the Department of Transportation has been asked to sow sweet clover along roadways to provide bees a source of nutrition.

Some critics, however, fear this will attract deer and more of them will wind up as road kill, he said.

“That’s really not the case,” Blatt said. “Deer do not eat sweet clover. They may take a bit here but they don’t like it.”

Blatt said another means of providing food for the pollinators is to convince coal operators to sow abandoned lands with clover and other bee-friendly plants.

Blatt appealed to home gardeners to refrain from using dust pesticides to keep vegetables insect-free.

“Dust is one of the worst,” he said. Bees unwittingly pick up the dust, assuming it’s pollen, and once it is taken to the hives, their young feed on it and die, wiping out colonies, he explained.

Blatt said he learned this truth a few years ago when a doctor advised him to check for dead bees with their tongues stuck out in his own hives. Sure enough, that was the telltale evidence of pesticide poisoning, he said.

“Please use a spray,” he told the committee. “And spray in the evening when pollinators are not as active. By the next morning, it’s dried up, and you’ll kill very few bees.”

State Apiarist Paul Poling told the committee there are 1,132 beekeepers in West Virginia, embracing 11,424 colonies and 1,678 apiaries.

Responding to a question, Poling said his agency doesn’t work on wild bee populations but does get calls when they interfere with a private habitat and create a nuisance.

“We don’t do surveys to look at what’s out there,” he said. “We encourage beekeepers to monitor them. Our main goal is to keep our beekeepers disease-free.”

http://bdtonline.com/wvstate/x1040821573/It-s-a-hard-cold-world-for-honeybees

HONEY, SPICE, PUMPKIN, BANANA, OR ZUCCHINI BREAD

Printed from COOKS.COM

2 c. honey
1 c. Safflower oil
3 eggs
3 c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Mix together dry ingredients and egg and honey mixture.

2 1/2 c. pumpkin (canned or cooked and mashed) or
2 1/2 c. mashed ripe bananas or
2 1/2 c. shredded zucchini
1/2 c. raisins
1/2 c. chopped walnuts or pecans

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.
The IHPA 100th Anniversary merchandise is now available for purchase. Show your support for the IHPA in our 100th Anniversary year with one of these great items!

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(515) 465-5939
CBronny823@aol.com

Vice President: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
flat_Lander@lycos.com

Secretary: Mary Ebert
705 Hwy. #1 West
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 354-6696
Mebert@netins.net

Treasurer: Melanie Bower
207 S.E. Diehl
Des Moines, IA 50315
(515) 287-6542
melrb@msn.com

Past President: Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA  51535
(712) 778-4256
mbrahms@netins.net

District Directors

District #1 Regina Hoy
19295 165th Street
Eddyville, IA 52553
(641) 660-0772
ginajscoupons@hotmail.com

District #2 Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

District #3 Dennis Nielson
6948 25th Ave.
Newhall, IA 52315-9620
(319) 223-5806
nielsondl@fbx.com

District #4 Julie Swett
2005 North Dakota Ave
Ames, IA 50014
(515) 450-2033
funcity@aol.com

District #5 Pat Randol
2505 Carriage Trail
Winterset, IA 50273
(515) 210-7445
PatRandol@Randolhoney.com

District #6 Mike Divis
3312 210th St.
Amthom, IA 51004
(712) 373-9743
(712) 899-8117
mikyydy@aol.com

State Apiarist
Andrew Joseph  (515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515-597-3060
Cell phone 515-540-9494
afjell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammguire@yahoo.com

Bee Emergency Information
Contact: Vern Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

Iowa Honey Queen Program
Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51534
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA  51535
(712) 778-4256

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov