Time to get those honey recipes in for the new IHPA Cookbook!
Deadline is March 1st, 2016.
Mark your calendars for some upcoming IHPA meetings/events in 2016:

IHPA Board Meeting, DMACC in Ankeny, Sunday, January 24, 2016
IHPA Board Meeting, DMACC in Ankeny, March 2016
Advanced Beekeeping Classes April / May if enough interest
Annual Field Day, Summer 2016, IHPA Board Meeting following Field Day Activities
Bids due for Iowa State Fair, June 30, 2016
Iowa State Fair, August 11-21, 2016
IHPA Board Meeting, September 2016
IHPA Annual Meeting, November 11-12, 2016

Package Bees for Sale
3lb. packages with an unmarked Italian queen loads scheduled March 22nd, March 31st, April 13th, May 11th.

Call (319-321-2494), website (www.kalonahoney.com) or by email (kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com).

1-9= $115/ea; 10-99= $110/ea; 100+= $105/ea (no cage deposits or refunds)
Extra mated queens= 1-9= $30/ea; 10-99= $27/ea; 100+= $25/ea

Tim Wilbanks
West Chester, IA

FOR SALE: 3 # packages
W/Italian or Carniolan queens
Price not yet confirmed, will be set in January
Pick-up in mid-April in Goodell, IA
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc and Singles
W/Italian or Carniolan queens.
Price not confirmed, will be set in January
Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May from Goodell, Iowa
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: I will have Queens’s available mid April,
Carniolan or Italian
Price not confirmed, will be set in January
Pick-up in Goodell.
For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: Reasonably priced new and used beekeeping equipment & supplies.
Also offering bulk honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies.

P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA
For more information, please call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

FOR SALE: Package Bees
2#, 3#, and 4# package bees for sale.
April delivery with pickup in Lynnville, Iowa. Choice of Carniolan or Italian queen. Prices are listed on our website www.eberthoney.com
Contact: Ebert Honey
Phil Ebert
14808 S 102nd Ave E
Lynnville, Iowa 50153
ehoney@eberthoney.com
641-527-2639
Alex Ebert @ 641-821-9648

Foley’s Russian Bees
For Sale: 2 & 3 pound Carniolan package bees with a mated Carniolan queen. We will begin taking pre-orders beginning in early January. Packages will be available to pick up at our Des Moines location the 4th weekend of April (the 23rd/24th) 3lb Packages start at $112 and 2lb start at just $94 each with discounts on larger orders.

For Sale: Russian mated queens. Help reduce your mite issues by re-queening your colonies with Russian bees. We are accepting pre-orders on our June, July, and August blocks of queens. Queens are $30 each and come marked.

For Sale: Locally made Pine hive kits, just $228 each. Kits are on pre-order basis and will be available for pick-up or delivery by April 1st. You can also request to have them held in the event you ordered bees from us, so you can get them at the same time. Kits include 2 deeps, 2 mediums, all the frames needed, inner cover, top cover, bottom, reducer, and division board feeder.

Visit us online to order, http://www.russianbee.com/ 3/16

For Sale: 2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa in mid-April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California.

All orders must be received by February 28.
Contact Douglas Child at 319-634-3682 2/16

For Sale: A Mannlake 18 frame radial extractor with base + uncapping tank in new condition. 319-385-1553
Tom Phelps
1723 Hilltop Rd.
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-8215

Wanted: Bee suit for an 8-10 year old child. According to Dadant the sizing would be the age of the child.
Contact:
Duane Dufoe
Grinnell IA
641-236-3780
Spring Valley Honey Farms

Spring Valley Honey Farms would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Ennis and Riley Finer for their years of valuable service. Pat and Riley are both moving on with their own beekeeping ventures and we wish them all the best!

Thanks again Pat and Riley.

Nucs for sale: $140.00
5 frame 9 5/8 nuc includes in disposable box. 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)
5 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life) Our bees are breed for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness.
Nucs will out produce 4 or 5 lb. package bees.

For Sale - 6 5/8 9 frame hive body box with bees: $167.00
9 frame 6 5/8 box includes 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)
(no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame Hive.
9 frames 6 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)
I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (Varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production. You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for $47.50.

For Sale - 9 5/8 9 frame wooden box with
1 marked queen & bees: $175.00
9 frame 9 5/8 box includes (no lid or no bottom board) In a 10 frame hive.
9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various ages of their life)
I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (Varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production. You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for $47.50.

New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit $290.00
Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hive bodies
20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
2 - 6 5/8 supers
20 - 6 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell
Telescoping cover with inner lid
Bottom board with reducer (NO BEES) AND How to get started FREE.
(You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available May 14th 2016 (depending on weather)

Deposit of $75.00 when you place order.
(Place order early before we're sold out)
Curtis Barnhart
PO Box 70
Monticello IA 52310

email: bee.cbarnhart@gmail.com

For Sale: Package Bees

3 pound with Carniolan or Italian Queen
2 pound with Carniolan or Italian Queen
Prices are not set for package bees but expected price to be from $105.00 to $110.00 with discount for larger orders.
We will have a supply of Italian & Carniolan Queens

We are offering 5 frame Nucs
Italian or Carniolan Queens
1-9 $135.00
10-99 $130.00
100+ $125.00

Singles $175.00

We will supply 1 gallon corn syrup and 1 # protein patty for $7.00 extra with purchase of Nucs and Package bees.

Bulk Corn syrup .40 per pound in your Container.
Corn syrup 40# bucket $18.00
50# bucket $23.00.
500#s or more syrup .35 per pound.

We will continue to carry a line of equipment needed to start and maintain your hive.

Call or text message: Connie Bronnenberg (515)480-6076
Call or text message: Curt Bronnenberg (515)480-6075
Facebook message: Spring Valley Honey Farms or Email: cbronny823@aol.com
President’s Message

Hello beekeepers!

I can’t believe we let go 2015, and 2016 is here! Christmas sort of crept up on me and New Years has come and gone. I must be bizzie or having fun because the time is flying by.

I have to salute the North Iowa bee club as they have a well organized, fun, down to earth club that seems to enjoy meetings to chat about bees. I really felt good speaking there and enjoyed every minute of it! THANK YOU. Peter, Tim and all the staff up there I feel they want to make, and keep, the club a success and I think they will. Great job!! Don’t hesitate people to check this club out as they are alot of fun and great people up there.

My projector on the other hand is a different story. I haven’t found a 5th grader to figure it out. By the time you will be reading this my beekeeping class will be over. It is Jan 3rd today and my classes start Jan 9th. I am out in the truck for the week. Working on the smart phone, (dumb phone I like to call it) typing away with my thumbs.

One thing is for sure, our winter has found us. Good old January in northern Iowa, it can get cold, snowy and down rite ugly. Did I mention ice! We have some of that. Some roads are a real mess. Let’s be careful, but let’s also be ready to check bees at the first warmish day (a day they are doing a cleansing flight) I have some that were heavy and are now light! I feel that this abnormally warm Nov, Dec we had may have us with some light hives out here. Some winter patties ready may just save a hive and save you alot of money come spring. I am hearing that packages will be pricey this year. Winter patties work as I use alot of them. Or make your own candy. There were alot of great ideas in last month’s buzz about candy and recipes as well. Was either Dec or Jan. Just thinking as I write this it maybe Feb when you read this, so yes, be ready to check those hives at the first real warm day. Giving a hive some candy at this time and pollen too maybe just what they need. When you open a hive at this time it seems like your body heat attracts them. They like to cling to you and it never fails to get one or two where you really dont want them to be. It can be a nasty job checking these bees at this time but I feel it will be worth it. Starved bees I hate seeing come spring. Cleaning out a dead hive is no fun either.

I need to mention to get your recipes in to Jodi! This dead line will be here soon. Let’s make this book great for all people to have and use. So get your recipe submitted. Did I mention there will be prizes for people who submitted the most recipes! There will be, so submit all you got. This book will be great if your recipe is in it! All you have to do is go to www.abuzzaboutbees.com and get the form. I have no doubt that this book will turn out great as people are getting involved here by submitting recipes. We just need yours too.

We are still looking for the person who submitted the chewy granola wedges at annual meeting. If it’s you call me 515 293-2458.

I have a couple of clubs I hope to get to this month in Jan but not sure as my class takes my Saturday’s but alot of them are during the week so will make it happen one way or another.

I have purchased a portable heater for the garage the other day and have started some projects. Making outer covers. A challenge, since I’ve never tried to make them before. I have my own idea, any beekeeper is not short on his or her ideas, I seem to fit really well in this catagory. I want to make some observation hives as well but not sure time will allow. The desire is most definitely there. I have learned that desire, plus ambition, multiplied by time can create some great things or one powerful headache! As I close this out let’s bee safe, bee good, bee nice, and bee careful. More next month!

Sincerely,
Roy Kraft
IHPA President

New IHPA Cookbook

The March 1st, 2016 deadline is quickly approaching!

It’s almost time for a new year, welcome to 2016. The date is drawing closer for recipes to be submitted for the “new” IHPA cookbook, cut off date for recipes to be submitted is March 1st.

If you used honey in your holiday recipes, pull them back out and submit them on the form that is in "The Buzz" or online. The more recipes you enter the more chances you have to be entered into the incentive drawing.

The cookbook committee includes Jodi Kraft - chairperson, Connie Bronnenberg, Heidi Love, Becky Elsbernd and Rhonda Heston, please send your recipes in to these people.

We are looking forward to getting the cookbook done and available for purchase!

Have a great New Year!!
Jodi Kraft

P.S. We had an entry at the Annual Meeting of Crunchy Granola Wedges, would the participant please let Roy Kraft know who you were. Thank you!

Please submit recipes to:
Jodi Kraft
IHPA Cookbook Chairperson
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

or my committee members: Becky Elsbernd, Connie Bronnenberg, Rhonda Heston and Heidi Love.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing your new recipes for the 2016 Iowa Honey Producers Association Cookbook.
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION COOK-BOOK

This recipe is being submitted for: Iowa Honey Producers Association (2016 cookbook)

Name of Recipe: _____________________________________________________________

Submitted by: _______________________________________________________________

INGREDIENTS: (List all ingredients in their proper order: 1, 2, etc. Please type or print neatly.)

#1 __________________________________________        _________________________________________

#2 __________________________________________        _________________________________________

__________________________________________        _________________________________________

___________________________________________        _________________________________________

___________________________________________        _________________________________________

___________________________________________        _________________________________________

___________________________________________        _________________________________________

METHOD: (Be sure to include: *Size & type of container    *Time    *Temperature    *Yield)

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

COMMENTS:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please send form to: Jodi Kraft, IHPA Cookbook Chair

P.O. Box 1, Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

These cookbooks will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair, please submit by March 1, 2016.

If necessary, continue on back of sheet. (Please mark the bottom of this sheet “over”.)
Queen Program

Again I did not do a very good at getting an article written for the Buzz and sent to Alex, but I wanted to “Thank” everyone who helped support our Queen program by donating and bidding on items at our annual meeting in November. A big thank you goes out to Bill Van Roekel for once again being our auctioneer. Your sense of humor keeps our Queen fundraising efforts lively and fun.

Mike Swett was the winner of the quilt that was raffled. We appreciate all of your support! The money raised from these auctions helps to get the Honey Queen to your events, farmers markets, craft shows, or any event.

Connie Bronnenberg

The Iowa State Fair in February?!?

Why so much talk about the Fair in February? Simply put, we would like to encourage more participation in the Fair exhibits by the membership.

Volunteers for the IHPA sales booth have come through as strong as ever as you will read in the following article. One of the other goals of the IHPA is to also have a strong showing of the beekeeping exhibits. Entering exhibits into the Fair is really quite fun (you may even win some prize money). And just think of how many people get to see your hard work during the course of the Fair! By the time you read this in February there will be a little over 6 months for you to get your plans made and exhibits ready. It may seem far off but we all know how busy that time of year can be. You may have noticed the Buzz has been running a series of articles specifically describing how to prepare exhibits for the different categories in the apiary department. There are more to come and hopefully they will give everyone some insight and inspiration for submitting an entry into the 2016 Fair in August!

Have fun and get those Fair entries ready to go!

Alex Ebert

2015 Iowa State Fair

We would like to “Thank” all of the volunteers for working at the IHPA booth at the Fair. I hope you all enjoyed your time selling Honey, Beeswax, Candles, Pollen, Bath and Body products, Lemonade, Sampling Honey, and Educating the public about Honey Bees and Honey! We had some extremely hot days, some rainy days, and some cooler days. You all made the 2015 State Fair a HUGE success! We could not have done this without all of YOU!

A Big “Thanks” goes to Jason Foley for all of his hours he spent at the booth and for putting up with us telling him what to do!

We had a lot of help from our local Honey Queens! Joy Westercamp, South East Iowa Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, Northern Iowa Honey Queen, Starlette Love, Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa Honey Queen, and Ciera Bronnenberg, Central Iowa Honey Queen, and we can’t forget our very own Gabrielle Hemesath, 2015 American Honey Queen! Gabrielle was able to attend the fair from August 14th through the 18th. The Queens did many of our talks in the Agricultural Building and at the Susan Knapp Learning Center. Also Big Thanks to Andy Joseph for doing some talks at the Agricultural Building!

At the Susan Knapp Center we had a short video we played on The Importance of Honey Bees with Sarah Red Laird (the Bee Girl organization). In the video she talks about if everybody in the world would plant a flower box for the bees how we could
change the world! We made Flower seed bombs with the kids and some adults for them to take home and throw to help feed the bees! When American Honey Queen Gabrielle was here she added a few more fun things by teaching the waggle dance! There was a lot of kid participation.

We made Mixed Berry Smoothies for our cooking with honey demonstration, which was also a big hit!

On the last Saturday of the Fair we had a Kids and Bees Expo in the Agricultural building where we made flower bombs, coloring pages with bees, photos with the bee cut out, bean bag toss, and Photos with Buzzy the Bee!

We hope you all had a great time at the fair and hope you all come back next year! We would like any of your ideas for improvements for our upcoming 2016 Iowa State Fair.

Thanks again, Heidi Love and Connie Bronnenberg

Comb Honey
by Randy & Nathan Elsbernd

As beekeepers selling honey, we had many inquiries for comb honey. So we read some books, asked other beekeepers “how to” and then gave it a try. We are always looking for diversification and competing in one more category in the apiary division at the Iowa State Fair. We encourage you to enter your apiary products for competition and for selling at the state fair. This article describes the way we get comb honey. If you have some helpful tips, let us know since we are by no means experts in the field and enjoy learning from our fellow beekeepers.

Preparations start in the spring by getting our equipment ready and building up our colonies. We use shallow supers (5 5/8”) for comb honey. The size of the frame inside is just the size you need with no waste on the top or bottom. We like wood frames with the wedge top and groove bottom with thin surplus foundation (100% beeswax as people will be eating it). When using new frames there is no problem inserting the wax into the frames as they are clean. When using frames year to year you will need to clean the wax out of the groove. A special tool can be purchased from any bee supply company. Insert the wax sheet, place the wedge on top and fasten it to the top of the frame. We use a ½ “brad nail on each side. We feel the brads come out easier than staples and you can reuse them from year to year as you are preparing to reload the frame for its next use. You do need to be careful with the wedge as it is fragile. The next step in preparing the frame is something we did not do the first year, that is to wax the sheet into the groove. It will stay on its own but the sheet can become wavy in the heat and when you cut the comb honey you will see that the wax sheet will not be in the center. (Not good general appearance and fewer points when scored at the fair.) To wax the sheet in, melt some of your beeswax that you collected previously and flow it into the groove. Here again a special tool can be purchased to help with this task but we just use a plastic syringe. Prepare all of your frames and place in supers. Some people place nine frames in the super and others place ten. We place ten frames on our comb honey supers to prevent the bees from drawing the frames out so thick that they do not fit into the plastic comb honey boxes. At times you may get a narrow frame but the majority of the time for us they come out just right.

With your supers ready and strong colonies selected, place supers on prior to a honey flow. We place only one comb super on at a time as the bees need to draw the foundation out. Bees like to work so you need to use diligence and watch as to keep enough work for the bees. Change frames around to get them all drawn out, outside in, inside out, evenly spaced, add a 2nd super for comb honey or regular super with 7 plus frames drawn out. Another thing to consider is when to add a queen excluder. Excluders seem to be a point of controversy among beekeepers. We like to use excluders after the bees have started drawing wax out. This keeps the queen from laying eggs in the comb supers, thereby keeping the drawn wax from turning a dirty brown color. Since the bees have started drawing comb they will go thru the excluder.
Once the bees have completely capped off the frames, you can remove the super and collect the comb honey. It may be earlier in the year or later depending on the honey flow in your area. Last summer we made the mistake of placing comb honey supers on and then after 2 weeks of no activity in the comb honey supers and scared we would not get any honey at all as it was mid-summer, placed regular honey supers that had drawn foundation. Of course the bees went to the drawn foundation first and never really wanted to go to the comb supers. Three weeks prior to state fair after we had signed up to provide some comb honey to sell at the fair, we thought we were going to have to call Steve Heston of the IHPA bid committee and back out as we had no comb honey yet. Remember bees like to work! The bees filled the supers in two weeks and we were off and running to prepare for the fair. We pulled the comb honey supers, of course got all the bees out, took them in the house and cut the comb.

If the bees did a good job you will get 4 squares from each frame, sometimes you need to skip a section whether it be dirty or just too thin or too thick. We have a square comb honey cutter we use to mark the cutting line, left and right, as the frame determines top and bottom. To actually cut the comb, we use a serrated sharp knife. Using a hot knife by dipping it in hot water would help go thru the wax, but it is difficult to keep it hot when you have many squares to cut and maybe are pinched for time. When you cut the comb honey, you must have a non-leaking cell. A disadvantage of clamshell boxes is the slanted sides which require you to force the cut sections down or cut them smaller making honey leak out. Packaging is complete after applying a lid, shrink wrapping the box and attaching a label. For long term storage of comb honey, we store them in the freezer.

The Iowa State Fair judges comb honey by accuracy and neatness of cut edges; uniform depth and filling of honey cells; complete, uniform and clean cappings; quality, quantity and uniformity of honey; freedom of leakage and general appearance of package. Pick your best looking ones for competition.

We hope this will inspire you to try your hand at comb honey as it is not as difficult as it may seem. You may get so much you would be able to help support the Iowa Honey Producers by selling it at the state fair. Comb honey can give you another product for your customers and some friendly state fair competition if desired.

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**Advanced Beekeeping Class**

Through many requests, the IHPA is again offering Advanced Beekeeping Class’s in two locations. Requirements are having a minimum of at least two years’ beekeeping experience. These classes will be ‘hands on’. Please bring your bee suit and veil.

The two classes are both offered on “Splitting Hives and Diseases”.

The **first** class will be April 30th, at Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry.

The **second** class will be May 7th, at the Mahaska county extension Office in Oskaloosa.

The time is 9:00- 4:30 for each class. For noon break, we will have a pot-luck. Registration will be limited to 25 people. Pre-registration is required. No walk in’s please. The cost is $75 per class.

To register please contact:
Rhonda Heston  
515-724-2124  
52735 187th Ave  
Chariton, IA 50049  
r.heston@yahoo.com

Profits from both classes will go towards helping support the IHPA Youth Mentor Programs throughout the state and with education.

**BEE HAPPY!!**
Pat Ennis

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**10 Mistakes New Beekeepers Make**

I am setting here December 14, recovering from total hip replacement surgery on December 1. Everything is healing well, but I cannot drive, so I have a lot of time on my hands and have been doing a lot of reading.

This was my first summer as a state bee inspector, and I’ve found it very rewarding. I had the pleasure of visiting 58 different beekeepers, most of whom were new beekeepers, and several of those had follow up visits. Besides looking for diseases and Varroa Mites, I was able to answer many questions. Most of these were new beekeepers and I saw a pattern of several common mistakes. I remember having made some of these same mistakes. I took a beginning beekeeping course at ISU and bought my first three nucs from the Stanley Brothers. Taking a class and getting my bees, I found I had a lot of different questions. The Stanley Bros. were my mentors and I really believe new beekeepers need mentors and I want to help them avoid the mistakes I made. I noticed several mistakes new beekeepers seem to be making. There is so much...
to learn as new beekeepers, missteps are inevitable as bee stings. These are in no order for these missteps.

1. KNOW WHEN YOUR QUEENLESS
This year I and others had queen problems, it appears, the queens just disappeared and for some reason the colony did not reproduce a new queen. If left alone, the population will dwindle to the point of no return. New beekeepers, I have observed have a difficult time recognizing a queenless colony. They make the big mistake that everything appears normal; lots of bees, brood, and honey. I admit, beekeepers don’t always look for the queen, but I look for eggs and the behavior or the bees. Depending on how long your colony is queenless, the bees appear agitated and almost hear a buzzing roar.

Andy Joseph, state apiarist, teaches a beginning beekeeping class at DMACC, suggests the new beekeepers should check their hives every ten days and look for eggs, brood pattern, and amount of bees in the hive. If you do see the queen, observe how she walks and her size compared to your queens in other hives. This inspection may save your colony.

2. LEAVING OUT FRAMES
Leaving out frames is something I have done and the bees will build comb in any empty space you give them. I have pulled out division board feeders and said to myself, I will come back and replace frames tomorrow. Right, When I return to that yard bees have built comb wherever the bee space is greater than 3/8 of an inch. They can really make a mess you must clean. Even with all natural beeswax, which I use, combs in ten frames, the bees sometimes do not build comb correctly. Those with plastic comb, just scrape off the damaged comb, paint a thin layer of melted beeswax over it and put the frames into your hive. I use natural wax, so I usually just melt out the wax and replace it with new wax foundation.

3. PLACING YOUR HIVES IN A TROUBLESOME LOCATION
While inspecting hives, I found several new beekeepers had placed their hives in shady areas. This causes extra humidity and on one occasion I found European Foul Brood disease. I recommend you place your hives on level ground in full sun. Also make sure you have room to work around your hives. I generally face my hives toward the south, however, the last few years; I have been placing them at right angles to each other to help the bees oriented themselves to their home. Also, try to put your hives in a convenient location that works for you. Some inspections were in pastures a half mile from the road and that’s a long walk for an old man like me carrying all my stuff.

4. NOT USE A SMOKER
I know new beekeepers like to do beekeeping a natural as possible, but I recommend using a few puffs of white smoke to disrupt the colony’s defenses. When you do not use your smoker the bees will likely react defensively. They will sting your bee suit and will die. What a waste. I believe, a few puffs of smoke is much less stressful on the bees. Again, I stress that you use your smoker sparingly and don’t use so much smoke that you drive the bees out of the hive.

5. STARTING WITH ONE COLONY
We had an almost perfect spring with good hive build up and a lot of swarming. Usually with packages you do not have to be concern with swarming, however, this year was an exception. Those beekeepers with only one hive had trouble preventing swarming. In our class at DMACC Andy Joseph suggests you start out with two packages or hives. I have suggested those with one hive either sell some brood frames or help another beekeeper by giving them a couple frames of brood, thus giving your one colony more room. With more than one colony you can equalize brood in all your colonies. The Stanley brothers taught me this procedure many years ago to build up hives for the honey flow. You will learn more about managing bee hives by having more than one hive. However, I do not recommend starting with a 100 colonies.

I am going to stop with these five missteps and I will add five more next month. After reading this article, if IHDA members and mentors can think of mistakes that you and new beekeepers have made, please email your questions and suggestions to me at ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Arvin Foell

Membership Dues are Due Now
Your Buzz Newsletter shows the expiration date of your membership. As of 1/1/2016, all payments have been posted and expiration dates updated. If your Buzz still shows 12/31/2015, but you know you have paid, please let me know so I can go back and check the records. R.Heston@yahoo.com or 515-724-2124.

Membership fees are $20 for the first beekeeper in the house and $5 for each additional beekeeper. One Buzz Newsletter will be sent to each address, no matter how many beekeepers you have signed up as members.

Please take time to check your Buzz Newsletter as you don’t want to miss out. Do you know that it is less than 220 days to the Iowa State Fair, which means the Central Iowa Beekeepers Auction will be coming up soon, Advanced Beekeeping Classes, Field Day and of course the Fair – volunteers and bids for products. You want to be sure you know about all of these.

Renew now, don’t delay!
Scholarship Donation. Thank You!

I am remiss in not letting you know about a generous person that presented a check for $250 to the Iowa Honey Producers’ Association during the 2015 Iowa State Fair. Chris Ruhaak, CEO & Founder of Heartland Photos & Design and owner of Loess Hills Honey Company LLC out of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Chris is the designer of our new T-Shirts, Keep Calm Keep Bees.

Chris has asked the funds be used to support a youth scholar get started in beekeeping. Roy Kraft and Rhonda Heston accepted the check on behalf of Iowa Honey Producers Association.

Thank you Chris for this generous donation and helping out a youth scholar.

IHPA Merchandise

At this time all we have for merchandise is T-Shirts. We have the traditional Iowa Honey Producers Association T-Shirt – Yellow with Black lettering. The IHPA logo is on the left breast and the same logo carries over to cover the back of the shirt. These shirts are available in Youth – Small through Large. Adult Small through 3XL.

Our newest additions are the Keep Calm and Keep Bees Line. These shirts are available in Yellow with Black lettering, Gray with Black lettering, Hot Pink with Black lettering, Lime Green with Black lettering, and Black with Yellow lettering. Youth sizes are only available in yellow and gray at this time and are priced at $13 which includes shipping.

Adult sizes Small through X-Large are priced at $15 which includes shipping. This is the cost for traditional or Keep Calm Keep Bees.

Adult sized 2XL and 3XL are priced at $17. There are limited shirts in these sizes. All colors may not be available.

We have a limited number of Gray Keep and Calm Keep Bees sweatshirts. Please contact Rhonda Heston for size availability and prices. R.Heston@yahoo.com or 515-724-2124.

We hope to have new cookbooks by the Iowa State Fair. Please see Jodi Kraft’s recipe form to put your favorite recipe(s) in the new cookbook. The deadline is approaching fast. You don’t want to be left out this time.

Is it legal to keep bees in your town?

Don’t know what to tell students, club members, relatives, or customers?

Visit and know.

www.BeeLaws.org
Smokers

I have always found bee smokers interesting. My first smoker came with a beekeeping starter kit and I still use it today, the bellows have been replaced twice.

I found two like new smokers that I put on my garage one on each side of the big door. A good friend gave me a small Root smoker that sets above my desk with a Corneil style smoker.

Last spring at the CIBA auction there was a Clark Cold Blast smoker that was a little rough but it sure would look good above my desk with the other smokers. I knew the Clark Cold Blast was made until 1920. After a little research I believe this smoker was one of the first made in 1879. This smoker cone has two rings like the 1879, the shape and direction of the bellows is like the 1879. There was no sign of an internal spring the 1879 had an external spring. After a little work this smoker works great and I do use it like all of my smokers.

Del Nelson

2016 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

2016 Essay Topic: “Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?”

Beekeeping has had is five minutes of fame for the past five years. Now more than ever, people are asking “What will happen if the bees are gone?” Your paper should research and help answer this question.

Survey your community to see what is being done. Include your state in your survey to see if there are any programs they are using for pollination or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Rules Overview: (failure to meet any one of the requirements will result in a disqualification)

Students interested in writing an essay, should contact their local 4-H offices for contest details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.

Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated double-spaced, 12pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format. Must submit an essay, 750 to 1000 words, on the essay topic. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research- 40%; (b) accuracy- 30%; (c) creativity- 10%; (d) conciseness- 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic- 10%

All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.

A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including birthdate, gender, complete mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay. Each state may submit ONE entry only.

Deadline for National submission is: March 4, 2016.
Mark Your Calendar for the CIB Annual Beekeeping Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper’s Annual Auction is being held on April 23rd 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their “in town honey house” again this year.
There will be a restroom available, as well as hot coffee, hot chocolate, bars, and rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, repair, paint and sell your extra beekeeping equipment. Or to keep an eye on the consignment list to purchase good beekeeping equipment! Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to consign.

All consigned items received by February 10 and March 10 will be advertised in the March and April Buzz Newsletter.

To have an updated listing of the items being consigned, please e-mail me after April 1st and I will have one sent to you.

Consignment fee for members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 10%
Consignment fee for non members of the Central Iowa Beekeepers is 15%

All drawn comb will be inspected by our State Bee Inspectors or State Apiarist.

For your convince, there will be signs posted on Highway 141.

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_lander@lycos.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!
ANOTHER KIND OF MITICIDE

A new study by Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University scientists, led by Dr Tatsuhiko Kadowaki from the Department of Biological Sciences, could lead to a solution to one of the major causes of honey bee death.

Beekeepers have been using synthetic miticides to kill the mites, but the mites build up resistance over time. The findings of Dr Kadowaki and colleagues, published in Cell Reports, show promising results for plant-based miticides that render mites unable to locate and attach themselves to the bee larvae.

“The miticides activate a sensory protein found on the mites’ front legs which prevents mites from finding their honeybee hosts”, explained Kadowaki. “Several plant-derived miticides activated the protein but had no negative effect on honeybees.”

In addition to their effectiveness in repelling the mites, these plant-based compounds are healthier for us. If trace amounts of these natural compounds end up in our food, they can be easily broken down by our bodies, unlike the synthetic ones.

In the near future, Dr Kadowaki and his team hope to develop more effective methods for large beekeeping operations to apply the compounds into beehives.

“Modern apiaries have lots of hives and they can’t use the same method we use, so it’s better to have an easier way to apply the compound into the hive. That would be the next step.”

“Most honeybees die during the winter,” said Dr Kadowaki. “As farmers don’t often use pesticides during the winter we can eliminate that as a major cause of winter losses of bee colonies.”

Other factors affecting honeybee colonies are viruses, and the lack of nutritional variety due to farmers replacing flowery wildlands with crop-growing fields, but the single greatest threat is the Varroa destructor mite.

RETIRED SALE

Approx. 12 hives in double deeps (10 frame) available late March (weather permitting). Strong and healthy (to be inspected in the spring). $125.00 each, to be sold as unit. Additional woodenware available for 18 additional hives: telescoping covers, inner covers, queen excluders, bottom boards including unique screened bottom inserts and telescoping feeder tops of our own design and making. $1,300. for the lot. All equipment in very good condition.

Additionally, 50 deep (9 1/8) supers with drawn comb or new foundation, $35.00 each, 10 medium (6 5/8) supers with drawn foundation $25.00 each and 30 shallow 5 11/16 supers with drawn comb $15.00 each. Both woodenware and comb in very good condition.

The above quantity of woodenware is suitable for a 30 hive sideliner operation which I ran for 35 years.

Maxant 4 frame extractor, reversible baskets, side crank, $400.00. An excellent piece of equipment--model is no longer produced.

90-12 jar cases of 12 oz. antique replica bail jars (with glass lid and wire bail). Complete with jar rubbers and plastic inserts, $18.00 per case. These jars are hard to find and really sell the honey!

Contact Charles Carpenter,
(712) 683-5804 anytime before 7:00 p.m.
This my home phone, please leave message if necessary. 2/16
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*some exclusions apply

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American Honey Producers Association: www.ahpanet.com

American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABF.net.org

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