The 2015 IHPA Annual Meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
IHPA Awards

If you know of somebody the IHPA should recognize please contact Curt Bronnenberg at (515) 465-5939. A brief written description of the nominee’s involvement in beekeeping/IHPA would be appreciated. These awards are given out during the Annual Meeting so please send in your nominees as soon as possible.

Life Time Membership Award

Pioneer Award, for having been involved in beekeeping for 50 years or more and still active in beekeeping.

Distinguished Service Award, for assisting other beekeepers, willing to share information, and/or serving the state association.

Education Award, for teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or T.V.

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, a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping. They do not need to be a of our beekeeping community.

Youth Award, for a youth 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.

Dates to Be Remembered

IHPA Board Meeting — Nov. 12th prior to the Annual Meeting.
Annual Meeting — Nov. 13th & 14th Clarion Inn, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

2015 IHPA Annual Meeting
Nov. 13th & 14th, 2015

Notice!

The 2015 IHPA Annual Meeting is being held at the Clarion Inn in Cedar Rapids, Iowa this year.

The IHPA Annual Meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together and discuss the wonders as well as mysteries of beekeeping. This meeting is open to anyone interested in beekeeping or honeybees. We have a variety of guest speakers from across the US come to speak on their expertise in the beekeeping world. For current beekeepers this is a great time to hear what is new in beekeeping or ask questions of those with a greater number of years experience. Those who are thinking about getting started in beekeeping will have numerous chances to ask, “what’s it like to keep bees?” There will be no shortage of answers. Beekeepers love to share the stories, fun, and enjoyment they have found in beekeeping.

For Sale: Honey Equipment, etc.
Boiler

Honey Production Equipment
Work table 107 ½ x 35 x 31
Steel rack 53 ½ x 53 x 42
Steel rack 40 ½ x 28 x 48
Steel rack 64 x 32 x 48
Flash heater 36 x 36 x 16” deep
Food grinder (2) peanut butter
Tank SS Kelly double boiler
Omega in-line digital thermometer

Creamed Honey Equipment
Honey packer automatic Api Electronic
ETRAC XFC series Microinverter
Nettcoc
SS table SS Top 36” x 14 deep
2 inline filters Dadant
SS piping 1 ½” diameter assorted lengths with valves and connections
Cash drawer, pole display, monitor, keyboard, printer
Cranberry

Racks and Misc Equipment
6 basic shelf type display racks
Display shelving 1 6’, 1 5’
1 table 35” x 2 Butcher’s block
1 counter top 74” x 18” x 35”
1 counter top 42” x 25” x 30 ½”
1 rolling ladder 4 x 60 x 50 ½
2 chrome carts
3 gorilla racks
6 chrome racks
1 verifone cc machine

Powder Inventory
Blueberry, Cranberry, Apricot, Jalapeno Powder, Jalapeno 1/8”, and Raspberry Powders

Contact:
Ann Garber
200 E. South St.
Corydon, Iowa 50060
Maia Kathleen Jaycox is the daughter of Scott and Juli Jaycox from Webster City. Maia is a senior at Webster City High School. She is involved in many activities: Homecoming Float Chair, Dance Team, Dance Marathon Executive Committee, Lynx Mentor, WCTV Student Director, Class Secretary/Treasurer, Student Council, Chorus, Show Choir, Spanish Club, WCTV, SPVG, ITEC, National Council on Youth Leadership, part-time employment at McMurry Hatchery.

SPORTS: Football and Wrestling Varsity Cheerleader, Varsity Soccer

CHURCH: Bible School Helper/Teacher, Youth Group, Acolyte, Christmas Youth Program

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Provide entertainment at Senior Care Centers, Blood donor, Youth soccer referee, Boone Bash River Dash volunteer

OTHER HOBBIES & INTERESTS: Beekeeping, Dance, Cooking, Sewing

Maia and her family have been keeping bees for 3 years!

Congratulations!
On behalf of the Iowa Honey Producers Association and The Honey Queen Chair I would like to congratulate some of our past Iowa Honey Queens on their marriages!

Maria Zuber Madden - July 11, 2015, Maria was our 2004 Honey Queen.

Shiliah Spalding Stein - August 22, 2015, Shiliah was our 2009 Honey Queen.

Hannah VanWyk Dunlap - September 5, 2015, Hannah was our 2012 Honey Princess and 2013 Honey Queen.

Wishing you a lifetime of Joy and Happiness!
Connie Bronnenberg

FBI Club Beekeeping Classes
Start Feb 4, 2016

The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa will be teaching an eight-week beekeeping course on Thursdays at 6:30-8:30pm, starting Feb 4 thru March 24, 2016. The cost of the course will be free, but for first-time beekeepers we require you purchase the book, “First Lessons in Beekeeping” by Keith Delaplane, which will be available for $8.00.

A power point presentation provided by Andy Joseph, State Apiarist, follows the “First Lessons in Beekeeping” book that we will use as a course outline. This information will be available the first night of class.

Our club welcomes all levels of beekeepers. Most of us continue to attend the course after the first year, as there is always something new to learn! We are of all ages and willing to help and support all.

Classes will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2708 N Jefferson Way, Indianola, IA 50125.

Please email Judy at jespencejr44@gmail.com with any question you have.

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

Contact: Judy Spence
(515)988-8397
jespencejr44@gmail.com

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa “FBI” is a new club in Indianola, IA, organized by the spring class of 2010 taught
by Mike Wyatt in Indianola. The name was inspired by our instructor, Mike Wyatt, who after retiring from the FBI, had to find a hobby. And what started as a hobby has become a passion. He is now teaching beekeeping to others.

As old and new beekeepers know, one can never have too much information or support. That’s what the FBI’s are all about. Whether you’re just curious or a new or experienced beekeeper we’d like to have you join us. Our group is very informal with no rules or regulations.

The FBI will meet the Fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm, starting March 24, 2016, with a speaker or a roundtable discussion. We currently meet at Calvary Baptist Church, 2708 N Jefferson Way, Indianola, IA 50125. (Note - in June and August we meet at a different location and time so please check with us.) There are no meetings in November thru February.

Our club teaches beginning beekeeping classes and the classes start in February. Andy Joseph the State Apiarist has written a power point that we follow.

All Are Welcome!! Please come join us!!
Chair Persons,
Judy Spence
Rhonda Heston

2015 Buzz Quilt

The 2015 Buzz Quilt is complete. We have some awesome quilters!! The blocks look fantastic and the unique quilting done by Dianne Rinehart of Marshalltown is out of this world. Each block has an individual quilting design. Thank you Dianne for the wonderful quilting.

Raffle tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. All proceeds benefit the Iowa Honey Producers’ Association Queen program. These funds are used to pay the expenses of the Queen and Princess when they travel to your Farmer’s Market, Honey Fest, visiting schools to help educate students about bees, etc.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in Cedar Rapids at the Clarion Inn. You do not have to be present to win, but you will want to be there for the FUN!

If you want to purchase some tickets, please contact Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616.
R.Heston@yahoo.com . 515-724-2124.

A first glimpse of the impressive 2015 Buzz Quilt!
Our featured beekeeper of the month is Anderson Beachy. He lives with his parents, Gabriel and Sheila, three sisters and one brother in rural Wellman, Iowa. He is in the 9th grade at Sharon Bethel School. His hobbies are hunting, trapping, fishing and woodworking. Gabriel is part owner of Heartland Designs and Anderson plans to work for Heartland Designs as a trim carpenter when he graduates.

A great uncle told Anderson about the IHPA Youth Mentor Program. Anderson says, “It’s really amazing how worker bees run the hive and not the queen, and how a bee knows to cap honey at the right time. It was really fun watching new bees hatch and watch them struggle to get out of the cells.” Anderson took his classes through Kirkwood in Washington, Iowa. Ron Wehr was the instructor and was his mentor. Anderson decided to purchase a second hive and had two colonies his first year. He harvested 100 pounds of honey and 10 pounds of comb honey.

Anderson says, “One funny experience or not so funny experience was when I forgot to tuck my collar inside my veil. We were treating the bees for mites and it was getting dark fast, but we thought if we hurried we could do it before it got too dark. Well those bees sure weren’t happy and by the time we were done treating the bees they were mad! But sadly my collar was not tucked in my veil and two or three bees came crawling into my veil. The real problem was that I couldn’t take my veil off because at least ten or so were just waiting for me to take of my veil. So you know how the story ended, I got Stung.”

Future plans are to split his two hives if they make it through the winter and go on from there.

Thanks for your story Anderson.

Submitted by Ron Wehr
103rd Annual Meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association
November 13th & 14th, 2015

Clarion Hotel & Convention Center
525 33rd Avenue, SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

The IHPA Annual Meeting will be held Friday, November 13th & Saturday, November 14th in Cedar Rapids at the Clarion Hotel (319) 366-8671. Room rates are $69 per room plus taxes for reservations made by Oct. 22nd. You must tell them that you are booking your room for the Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Meeting to get this room rate.

The IHPA Annual Meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together and discuss the wonders as well as mysteries of beekeeping. This meeting is open to anyone interested in beekeeping or honeybees. We have a variety of guest speakers from across the US come to speak on their expertise in the beekeeping world. For current beekeepers this is a great time to hear what is new in beekeeping or ask questions of those with a greater number of years’ experience. Those who are thinking about getting started in beekeeping will have numerous chances to ask, "what's it like to keep bees?" There will be no shortage of answers. Beekeepers love to share the stories, fun, and enjoyment they have found in beekeeping.

2015 Annual Meeting Speakers include the following:
Meghan Milbrath, Greg Haniford, Michelle Colopy, Mary Harris, and Adam Dolezal. Roy Kraft, IHPA VP, will be hosting a round table on "wintering bees in cold climates". His guests will be Phil Ebert, Bob Fastbinder, and Meghan Milbrath.

Please think about entering our photo contest, cooking with honey contest, mead contest, hive body paint design, or bringing items for the Queen Program and silent auction! Consider attending the banquet and enjoying fellowship with your fellow beekeepers!

Additional Annual Meeting information will be in the September issue of the Buzz Newsletter including contest and banquet information.
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
103rd ANNUAL MEETING
CLARION HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA on NOVEMBER 13th & 14th, 2015

Registration: 8am | Start: 8:30am
Queen Luncheon: Noon on Friday
Banquet: 6:30pm Friday night

NAME:_______________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:____________________________________________________________
CITY:_____________________________________ZIP:________________________
PHONE: (____)_________________________COUNTY:_______________________
NO. OF COLONIES:_______________YEARS BEEKEEPING:___________________
E‐MAIL ADDRESS:_____________________________________________________

DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL MEETING PRE‐REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 31st (NO EXCEPTIONS). If you can only attend one day, no discounts can be given. No refunds will be given after November 1st.

Annual Meeting Fees:
Individual:
Registration after October 31st will be $30.00 / Before October 31st $25.00
Couple/Family Rate:
Registration after October 31st will be $45.00 / Before October 31st $40.00

Queen Luncheon – Friday noon (pre-registration required by October 31st, per hotel management)
Number of tickets (per person) __________ x $15.00 $__________
Number of tickets (per child 4 -12 yrs.) __________ x $12.00 $__________

Banquet – Friday night 6:30 p.m.
Number of tickets (per adult) __________ x $25.00 $__________
Number of tickets (per child 4 – 12 years) __________ x $19.00 $__________

**Pre-registration received by October 31st, will enter drawing for 2 free banquet meals!**

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES:
IHPA membership dues (includes subscription to “The Buzz” newsletter) $20.00 $__________
2nd Family membership with same address Name:____________________ $ 5.00 $__________
3rd Family membership with same address Name:____________________ $ 5.00 $__________

***Note: Paid 2015 membership is required to vote at the business meeting.***

Return this completed form, together with your payment to:

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Avenue, Chariton, IA 50049
Please make checks payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Association

Any questions about the Annual Meeting, please contact Roy Kraft (IHPA VP) at kroyster.rk@gmail.com or call 515-293-2458.

Note: Members are responsible for sending in their own magazine subscriptions and national association memberships starting October 1, 2003.
Photo Contest
Show us your great bee and beekeeping photos!

_categories_
1. Bee on a flower
2. General beekeeping
3. Marketing or promotion
4. Extracting Honey or specific photos pertaining to honey

Rules
- Photos must be matted but not framed
- Any sized photo will be accepted for this competition
- Your name needs to be on the backside of the photo

Hive Body Painting Contest
Bee creative! Paint up a hive body for all to see.

_categories_
1. Theme of your choice
   - Adult (16 years of age or older)
   - Youth (15 years of age or younger)

Rules
- Your name needs to be written on the paper provided in the contest room
- The use of stenciling is not allowed
- Hand painted design should cover a minimum of one side of the hive body

Cooking Contest
Share your favorite honey recipes!

_categories_
1. Desserts
2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or snacks

Rules
- Honey is to be the only sweetener
- Please submit your written recipe with your entry
- Judges will keep recipies to be included in the Buzz Newsletter
- Your name needs to be on the backside of the recipe card

Mead Contest
Bring your best mead.

_categories_
1. Traditional Meads
2. Molemel (Fruit Meads)
3. Methyglyn (Spiced Meads)

Rules
- Supply at least two bottles of mead
- Mead will be judged on the rule of the State Fair
- Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation.
- Your name needs to be written on the paper provided in the contest room

IT'S BEEKEEPERS THAT ARE IN TROUBLE, NOT SO MUCH THE BEES..

Scientists are now in agreement that we are not facing a beeapocalypse as many in the media environmental activists and journalists have been predicting. Bee populations aren’t declining; they’re rising. According to statistics kept by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, honeybee populations in the United States, Canada and Europe have been stable or growing for the two decades

But the latest statistics have not stemmed the tide of dire warnings. The focus has shifted from the pollinators themselves to beekeepers. Tim Tucker, president of the American Beekeeping Federation recently said: “It’s not the bees that are in jeopardy. .... I believe we’ll always have bees. ... [But] unless things change, what’s in jeopardy is the commercial beekeeping industry.”

University of Maryland bee researcher Dennis van Englesdrop echoed the sentiment: “We’re not worried about the bees going extinct .... We’re worried about the beekeepers going extinct.”

Beekeeping is challenging

“Beekeepers are indeed “working nearly twice as hard as ever,” as Tucker has said. Beekeepers report having to split their hives more often to make up for losses, entailing more work than in previous decades. And for commercial beekeepers maintaining thousands of bee hives, all of this additional work means more employees, more salaries, and more expenses.

The major driver of these challenges is the near-global spread of parasites ... read the rest of this article here –

BEE TONGUES AND FLOWERS REVEAL EVOLUTION IN OVERDRIVE

Living on a mountain is hard for bees and flowers. It’s cold. There’s extreme weather. And new research has found it’s getting even harder for both flowers and bees to make a living in alpine environments lately. Scientists compared over 40 years of mountain bumblebee and flower records on three Colorado mountains and found major decreases in both bees and flowers. But they also found clear evidence of rapid evolution by the bees, suggesting it’s not time to give up on mountain bumble bees just yet. Entomologists and botanists get teased about traveling the world, meeting interesting insects and plants, and then killing them. But it’s a morbid habit that pays off; it creates a long-term, stable record of the biological past. Museum collections may look like a creepy charnel house to outsiders, full of corpses, pins, and mothballs. Our libraries of dead things become a book of evolutionary change for future scientists to read.

Preserving organisms from taxonomic or ecological studies lets us travel back in time. “People are always interested in having their data looked at and reanalyzed in a different way, a way that they hadn’t thought about previously. That is one of the great things about having open access data,” said Dr. Nicole Miller-Struttmann, lead author on the new bumble bee study.

To investigate how flowers and bumble bees changed, a team of scientists dug through over 40 years of records. They tracked down thousands of bumble bee specimens collected on mountains in Colorado between 1966 and 1980, and compared them to bumblebees collected in the same areas between 2012 and 2014. They also used herbarium specimens of flowers collected during similar time frames and surveyed flowers in the field.

Plants on mountains often have very narrow temperature tolerances; too much heat can reduce flowering. On one of the mountains in the study, between 1960 to 1985, only 12 percent of the years were hot enough to reduce flowering. Since 1985, 48 percent of years were too hot for flowers that bumblebees typically forage on.

Since 1970, the total number of flowers available for bees on the mountain study sites declined by 60 percent overall. What did that mean for bees?

Over 95 percent of bees in the study regions between 1966 and 1980 were just two species of “long-tongued” bees. These bees specialize in flowers with a narrow, elongated tubular shape. Their long tongue means they are able to reach the nectar hidden at the bottom of a flower and can muscle out their shorter-tongued relatives. This is an example of coevolution, where two species reciprocally affect each other over evolutionary time.

Bees collected from 2012 to 2014 were different, though. The long-tongued species of bumble bees declined by 24 percent. At the same time, warming temperatures and changes in flowering plants allowed some lower altitude bees to live at higher mountain elevations. The entire community of bumble bees changed.

Long-tongued bumble bees responded to the scarcity of flowers by becoming less selective; the range of plants they foraged on changed significantly and included flowers with no long nectar tubes. The scientists wondered if the bees physically changed too, and measured body length and tongue length on their historic and modern bee specimens. How do you measure a bee’s tongue? Miller-Struttmann explains: “They tuck their tongue back into their body, so they sort of fold it back up along their chin, I guess you could say. We had to rehydrate historic specimens, and then fold the tongue out, and then measure it under a microscope with calipers.”

What no one expected was that the tongues of long-tongued bees would get shorter. A lot shorter. “A 24 percent decrease in tongue length is really dramatic,” says Miller-Struttmann. “That was in 40 years, in 40 generations, I should say, because these bumblebees only have one generation a year. That’s a pretty short period of time to see such a dramatic shift.” Bumble bee bodies also got slightly smaller, but not as much as the tongues shrank. The research team did not find changes in the depth of the flowers bumble bees were visiting. The bees’ shape changed, but the flowers didn’t.

Building and maneuvering a big tongue takes energy, and bees with shorter tongues may have done better at diverting that energy into more babies. In the short term, the bumble bees seem to be hanging on. But what about longer term?

Right now, bumblebees and the plants they historically fed on are mismatched physiologically. The bees may not be as good a pollinator for those plants, which could cause further declines in flowers. In the long term, perhaps they will also evolve, but they’re much longer-lived species. Their generation time is decades, not yearly. Change will be slower—or may not happen at all.

Dr. David Inouye has researched flowers and alpine bees at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory for decades. He said, “This study is a great example of the value of archiving data... an example of a change in bumble bees that is unexpected, and would not have been discovered without access to historical data. We have evidence from elsewhere in the Rocky Mountains that bumble bee queens of eight species have moved up 230m in altitude over about the same time span, and these kinds of changes in bumble bee communities will have interesting consequences over both ecological and evolutionary time scales.”

This study also highlights a common problem for mountain or other remote refuges — as the climate warms, the places where plants and animals thrive move slowly away from the areas we’ve designated for their conservation. By increasing areas set aside for nature, or making sure we have connections between isolated nature refuges, we can try to help bees and plants adapt to our new warmer world.
ROYAL JELLY ISN’T WHAT MAKES A QUEEN BEE A QUEEN BEE

For decades, scientists thought an excess of something special, a substance called royal jelly, elevated a regular honey bee larva to a queen. New research suggests we had it backward: It’s what future queens aren’t fed that matters.

Royal jelly, which also is called “bee milk,” looks like white snot. More than half of it is water, the rest is a combination of proteins and sugars. Special glands in the heads of worker bees secrete the stuff, which gets fed to babies.

A developing queen bee is fed royal jelly exclusively—not pollen and honey like her proletarian sisters. Some describe withholding royal jelly from worker bees as nutritional castration. These bees don’t get the special Food of the Gods. Or, perhaps, food of genetic monarchies. And so, we thought, their ovaries shrivel, and they don’t become a queen.

It turns out, it’s the other way around. Not feeding an immature queen pollen and honey is what makes her royal, not her exclusive access to royal jelly.

Queens and Genes

Radically different looking animals can be created from identical genetic material; a worker bee and a queen bee differ only in which genes are activated. Genes make proteins, which build the rest of our bodies. By manipulating the environment of their offspring, honey bees genetically alter their bodies via nutrition.

We’ve known for a while that bees’ diet is involved in building different kinds of bee bodies. Science is still figuring out just how that happens. Queen larvae are surrounded by royal jelly; they float on a sea of sugary bee gland snot in enlarged cells. Worker bees eat bee bread (a type of fermented pollen) and honey. Nurse bees mash this into a “worker jelly” and add glandular secretions as a garnish. Workers don’t get the special stuff in queen jelly, and their ovaries shrivel.

That’s the conventional explanation. But Dr. May Berenbaum, a professor at University of Illinois and an author of the new research, says there isn’t a simple answer to the question What do bee babies eat?

“We had the hardest time figuring out what larvae eat,” she says. “Among other things, worker jelly and royal jelly appear to have, and there is no consensus, a slightly different ratio of mandibular to hypopharyngeal gland secretion ... It all happens in the dark surrounded by 50,000 stingers. So it isn’t the easiest insect in the world to work on.”

Bees reared on the p-coumaric acid diet had ovaries significantly smaller than those reared without that compound. That’s the kicker, because what makes a queen bee a queen? She’s the only bee in the hive laying eggs. Fourteen genes known to be involved in worker-queen differentiation were upregulated, or increased in expression.

“Never set out to change perceptions on queens and caste determination,” says Berenbaum. “I’m interested in detoxification; how insects cope with phytochemicals they consume.
Much to our surprise and delight, a whole suite of other genes that were implicated in caste determination changed."

“It was one of those impossible to miss sorts of phenomena. I think ... the idea of royal jelly is so appealing, people haven’t really questioned it.”

The Silencing of the Genes

With over four centuries of living with bees, why are humans still learning so much about them? To answer that question, I reached out to Dr. Ryszard Maleszka at Australian National University. Maleszka, who is not an author of the new research, works specifically on honey bee epigenetics.

Epigenetics is the study of how environments affect gene expression. “With our current knowledge we only scratch the surface of biological systems, and honey bee biology is no exception,” Maleszka says. “We are dealing with 500 million years of animal evolution so there is much to discover.”

“[This research] is a wonderful example of an evolutionary invention whereby common plant chemicals have been recruited to be crucial elements of gene regulation ... By using environmental ingredients honey bees found a clever solution to a challenging problem: How to generate two contrasting organisms, long-lived reproductive queens and short-lived functionally sterile workers, using the same genetic hardware.”

Lots of factors go into making a queen beyond the plant chemicals examined in the new research: A compound with the wonderful name of royalactin, for example, has been proposed as critical to queen development. Maleszka has delivered a stinging rebuke to the idea that a single compound in royal jelly is the “switch” that makes a queen, though. In 2008, his lab was able to create queen bees without any royal jelly consumption, by turning off (silencing) a set of genes. Other bee researchers have questioned the “one molecule to rule them all” idea of queen development. The reality is likely that, like everything else in biology, it’s complex and many factors are involved.

The real power of this new research may be in explaining why worker bees don’t become queens. Instead of chemical castration by denying workers royal jelly, this elaborate feeding process provides chemical protection for the queen’s ovaries. She is sheltered from the potential toxic or metabolic effects of plant chemicals. As we continue to improve our techniques, hopefully we will come closer to a firm answer about just what honey bees eat in their hives, and why.

Postscript: Um, Why Are Humans Eating Royal Jelly?

When we thought royal jelly was magic queen stuff, stealing and eating phlegm produced in insect heads made a kind of warped sense. Royal jelly proponents claim the stuff cures all sorts of human problems, infertility in particular. By deduction, the stuff that makes queen bees baby machines, laying up to 2,000 eggs a day, should increase human fertility. I am compelled to say this is not how scientists deduce cause and effect.

Royal jelly also is sold as an aphrodisiac, and like most erotic insect products, it’s applied with “vigorous rubbing.” That makes it hard to say just how firm evidence for this erectile remedy really is. Also, actual honey bee reproduction involves penis detachment and death, which doesn’t sound like a good time to me, if we are sticking with that whole “what works for a bee will work for humans” analogy.

Royal jelly does have antibacterial and antifungal properties, since it’s the gunk developing bees float in until they metamorphose. It’s marketed in many cosmetics as an anti-aging ingredient; queen bees live 40 times longer than worker bees. So far, there isn’t much evidence of royal jelly having medical significance in humans. It’s probably a good moisturizer, though. Especially if you don’t think about where it comes from.

My best guess is that about 600 tons of royal jelly is produced and sold yearly; East Asia is the main producer. Prices vary widely, but based on a trip to my local health food store, seems to run about $1 per gram. The market value of royal jelly is based on what we thought we knew about its magical properties; that doesn’t seem likely to change in the foreseeable future.

But now you can have a lot of fun telling people where their royal bee goobers came from.


THE EXTREMES IN BEE SUITS

What’s your taste in bee suits? Organic cotton, made under fair trade work conditions with the aim of a 100% compostable jacket? That one is a little pricey but it’s got all the current buzzwords buzzing. Made in the Netherlands.Go to www.beefair.eu/kickstarter.

And then there is the other end of the spectrum - professional quality, super low priced and made of best quality thick 100% cotton. These are from Pakistan. Go to www.bayanent.com.
Varroa mite management

By Dr. Elina Niño, UC Davis, reprinted from the UC Apiaries newsletter May/June 2015

As I traveled around the state talking with different bee clubs I heard from many beekeepers that they would prefer to use miticides for Varroa management only as their last resort. Since there are many great articles, blogs, websites already devoted to alternative Varroa management, I want this blurb to be a quick primer for those who are just starting beekeeping or those who are just starting to think about non-chemical approaches.

When it comes to pest or pathogen control, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is highly recommended. This means that you should be making an informed decision about management by understanding the host and pest biology and their interactions. Actions should be taken based on thresholds although, as a community we are still a little unclear as to what a true threshold is for Varroa. IPM also integrates multiple tactics and is considered safe, profitable and environmentally friendly. Below is a great rendition of the classic IPM pyramid that also incorporates beekeeping-specific approaches (modified from “Beekeeping Basics”, The Pennsylvania State University).

As the Pyramid demonstrates preventions should be the foundation of your management. To increase your chances of being successful, you should set up a plan of action well in advance of identifying any problems in the hive (this applies not only to Varroa). “Knowledge is power!” so you should check your colonies regularly. The frequency will depend on your beekeeping style, time availability, how many colonies you have, etc.

A quick side note! In the E.L. Niño lab we check our research colonies about every ten days, but that is because we really need to know what is going on with them at all times so we can conduct our research successfully. If you do decide that you will be checking your colonies less frequently just remember that if a queen is lost, it takes 16 days for a new one to develop, five-seven days for her to mate, and then up to another seven days for her to start egg-laying. The queen lays about 1200-1500 eggs during the season so feel free to calculate how many workers you are losing in this time period. The outcome could be worse if workers fail to make a new queen and you end up with a colony full of laying workers.

This brings me back to the topic at hand – Varroa management, and to the bottom of the IPM pyramid - cultural control. Cultural control means that you are changing the environment in such a way that it supports pest management. For example, purposefully creating a short break in brood cycle can help with reducing Varroa numbers in your colonies. Probably my favorite form of cultural control is the use of Varroa hygienic and/or resistant honey bee stock. There are several lines available for purchase (e.g., Minnesota hygienic, Varroa Sensitive...
Hygiene) or you can try to breed your own. Going up the pyramid, physical/mechanical control includes things like drone comb removal. Mites prefer to develop on drone brood so to remove the mites a drone frame is placed in a colony, then removed after it is capped, and usually frozen to kill the mites.

I’ve been asked by several beekeepers what to do if they want to use this form of control but are also wanting to provide drones for their breeding program. If you are interested, you can find an answer in a paper by Wantuch and Tarpy 2009 which specifically talks about how to use drone trapping without losing the drone population. The paper can be found here: http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture/pdfs/Wantuch&Tarpy.2009%20copy.pdf.

Other methods are the use of a bottom board and powdered sugar dusting but they are likely to be more effective in combination with other approaches. Biological control is the use of another living organism to control a pest (think ladybugs and aphids). Let me just mention a couple of unexpected, but potentially promising solutions. A species of predatory mite, Stratiolaelaps scimitus, commonly used for control of fungus gnats and thrips in the plant production industry is being explored for Varroa mite control. However, this is a soil mite and considering the differences between the soil and hive environment I’m not sure if this will be a sustainable solution.

Another rather interesting critter is being explored – a pseudoscorpion. After doing a quick search of the literature, I found a few articles that suggest pseudoscorpions might be preying on varroa mites in the hives, however, I also came across a few articles stating that pseudoscorpions are likely feeding on remnants of dead bees. Considering a great need for novel Varroa control options, it is likely that the exploration of these organisms will continue.

I will stop at biopesticides, and maybe tackle that topic in a future issue of the newsletter. “Prevention rather than intervention!” is likely to help you reduce the chemical input into your hives. No matter which management tactic you chose, the bottom line is you should be a good beekeeping neighbor and prevent the spread of Varroa which has been so devastating to the beekeeping industry.

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**IHPA Membership**

It’s never too late or too early to renew your membership. Annual memberships are valid for a calendar year, January through December. The date of the back of this BUZZ Newsletter tells you when you membership expires.

Dues are $20 for the first beekeeper in the house. Each additional beekeeper in the house is $5. One BUZZ Newsletter will be sent to one address no matter how many members there are in the household.

No need to send your membership dues now, I’ll remind you again closer to the end of the year. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Rhonda Heston, R.Heston@yahoo.com or 515-724-2124.

**New IHPA Cookbook**

It’s time for a new cookbook! Please submit your new Honey recipes, the Iowa Honey Producers Association is doing a new cookbook that will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair.

We would like to have as many NEW recipes in this new cookbook as possible, so bring on your newest tried and true delights. Submit all the categories you can think of including soap and honey mead.

We have the form available online through the Buzz (August issue), and at the 2015 Annual Meeting in November. Our cut-off date for the cookbooks to get prepared will be March 1, 2016.

We do have some incentives for you, the more recipes you submit, the better for you, stay tuned for those incentives in a later Buzz article.

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.

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**The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or alex.ebert@eberthoney.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Alex Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153.

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.
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